





# Israeli-Arab MKs meet Syrian FM in Damascus

DAMASCUS (AFP) — A delegation of Israeli-Arabs, some of them MKs, held political talks with Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Sharaa here until early Tuesday in the first meeting of its type since Israel's creation in 1948.

The talks followed a dinner in honour of the 50-member delegation which arrived in Syria last week in response to an invitation from President Hafez Assad.

A delegation official said Mr. Sharaa seemed "cautiously optimistic" on the future of the Middle East peace process because of "positive indications" such as Arab solidarity and international criticism of Israel's policies.

The Syrian minister was "harshly" critical of Washington's policy toward the region, saying U.S. envoy Dennis Ross mission "will be without results," the source said.

Mr. Ross, who arrived in Israel over the weekend, has been holding a flurry of meetings with Israelis and Palestinians.

Opposition Labour MK Nawaf Massalha said Mr. Sharaa said Damascus

"is ready to make any sacrifice to recover its land," the Golan Heights, which Israel captured in the 1967 Middle East war and annexed in 1981.

Mr. Massalha reported that Mr. Sharaa said that it "would be preferable to obtain it without spilling a drop of blood."

Deputy Abdul Malek Dahamshah, an Islamist allied with the Arab Democratic Party (ADP), said Mr. Sharaa stressed "the importance of uniting the Israeli peace camp so as to counter [Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin] Netanyahu's policy."

The return of the Golan is Syria's key demand in negotiations while Mr. Netanyahu has said the future of the strategic plateau lies with Israel.

The Syrian minister "admitted that Syria has delayed welcoming Palestinians remaining in the country [Israel] and establishing ties with them," Mr. Dahamshah said.

He said the minister called for Israeli-Arabs "to unite within an influential parliamentary group" to strengthen the peace camp.

Mr. Sharaa's statements "boosted our trust in the Syrian policy favourable to peace," Mr. Dahamshah said, adding that the delegation asked Damascus "to make it easier to maintain contacts between Palestinians living in Syria and those with Israeli citizenship."

Labour deputy Saleh Tarif said his party's leader, Ehud Barak, confirmed ahead of the visit that "Labour leans toward resuming the negotiations with Damascus at the point where they were halted" in February 1996.

Labour, which has been in opposition since May 1996, said that the "peace will be one of retreats" by Israel from Arab territory occupied in 1967, Mr. Tarif said.

He did not say whether he brought a Labour Party message to Syrian leaders. Mr. Tarif backed Damascus' version of the talks with Israel resulting at the beginning of 1996 in an agreement for Israel to withdraw from the Golan.

The agreement "should be signed in September," said Mr. Tarif, who heads the Israeli parliament's

internal affairs committee.

Mr. Sharaa's statements are "a message of peace," said Deputy Walid Sadeq of the far left Meretz Party, who told the minister of the desire of his party's chief, Yossi Sarid, to visit Syria. Ovadia Yosef, head of the ultra-Orthodox Shas Party, which is a member of the Israeli governing coalition, was also ready to respond to an invitation from Damascus, according to ADP Vice President Taleb Sanaa, who said he "is bringing back a message of peace to the Israeli people."

A meeting between the Israeli-Arab delegation and the Syrian president is expected to take place Tuesday, according to members of the group.

They are also to meet leaders of Palestinian organisations based in Damascus who oppose the 1993 Palestinian autonomy accords.

The delegation from Israel received a warm welcome Sunday at the Palestinian refugee camp at Yarmouk, south of Damascus.



IRAQI REFUGEES IN SYRIA: Iraqi refugees demonstrate in front of the U.N. High Commission for Refugees office in Damascus on Tuesday to protest against a cut in financial aid (Reuters photo)

## Japanese Red Army members appeal Lebanon prison verdict

BEIRUT (AFP) — Five members of the Japanese Red Army sentenced to three years in prison for using forged documents and illegally residing in Lebanon appealed against their conviction Tuesday.

Beshara Abu Saad, the defence attorney for the five members of the extremist group, appealed the conviction by the Beirut criminal court claiming that its verdict contained procedural errors and contradictions, the sources said.

The five ageing members of the Red Army, which carried out a string of terrorist attacks in the 1970s alongside radical Palestinian groups, were convicted on July 31.

The criminal court hailed one of the defendants, Kozo Okamoto, for his "heroic action against the Israeli enemy," but ordered him and the others expelled from Lebanon once they complete their three-year prison sentences.

Mr. Okamoto, 49, is the sole survivor of a 1972 attack on Tel Aviv's Lod airport which left 26 people dead. He was sentenced to life in prison in Israel but was freed in a swap with Palestinian guerrillas in 1985.

Mr. Okamoto, Kazuo Tohira, 44, Haro Wako, 48, Masao Adachi, 57, and Mariko Yamamoto, 56, the lone woman defendant, were accused of forging documents, using false

passports and illegally entering and residing in Lebanon.

None of the defendants faced any charges connected to their acknowledged membership of the Japanese Red Army.

Japan has asked for the extradition of the Red Army members, but Tokyo and Beirut are not linked by an extradition treaty and it is up to the Lebanese cabinet to decide whether to hand over the five.

Red Army guerrillas are regarded by many Arabs as heroes of the war against Israel, and Syria, the main powerbroker in Lebanon, is said to have opposed their arrest and potential extradition to Japan.

The arrests also angered

many Lebanese and Palestinian leftist groups here, as well as intellectuals, deputies and even government ministers who rallied a defence team of more than 100 attorneys.

Political parties such as the Lebanese branch of Syria's ruling Baath Party and the Iranian-backed Hizbollah organisation have demanded their release and called on the government to grant their request for political asylum.

Lebanon has been trying to shed its wartime image as a haven for terror groups in an attempt to secure foreign investment in an \$18 billion rebuilding programme launched after the 1975-90 civil war.

## Egyptian officer, journalist detained in Saudi — rights group

CAIRO (AFP) — The Egyptian Organisation for Human Rights (EOHR) Tuesday charged that the Saudi authorities "illegally detained" an Egyptian officer and a journalist earlier this year for 94 days.

"Egyptian citizens, Major General Mahmoud Abdul Halim Hassuba and journalist Morsi Abdul Sattar Al Nuishi were illegally detained during a visit to Saudi Arabia" in March, the EOHR said in a statement received by Agence France Presse.

"The EOHR urges the Egyptian and Saudi foreign

ministries to quickly intervene and investigate the reasons for this detention and make its information public," the statement said.

The officer and the journalist complained informed the EOHR of the alleged detention after their return to Cairo.

According to the statement the pair had gone in March to Saudi Arabia at the invitation of the ruler of the northern city of Hail, Prince Makran Ben Abdul Aziz Al Saud, to discuss an investment project in Arab region.

The project was part of a

programme of the U.S. Johnson Foundation International, the EOHR said.

When the pair tried to leave their Jeddah hotel on March 17 — 15 Saudi officers stormed their room and told them they were from the general intelligence services," the EOHR said.

The pair were taken to "an isolated building guarded by armed men and told they could not leave the building or the country for 29 days," it said. On April 14 they were taken to a Jeddah prison and kept there for 21 days during which they were interrogated by police

and other Saudi authorities on the investment project.

On June 5 the pair were taken to another prison "where they were kept for 44 days without investigation or any charges against them."

"During that time the journalist suffered from high blood pressure and was not given any adequate medical care," the EOHR said.

They were finally allowed to leave on June 19. The EOHR denounced the alleged detention and imprisonment of the pair as a "flagrant violation of human rights."

## Yemen says blasts part of 'destabilisation plot'

SANAA (AFP) — The bombings that occurred in the southern Yemeni city of Aden on July 28 are part of a "destabilisation plot" stirred up by opposition members abroad, a Yemeni security official said Monday.

"The Aden bombings are part of a criminal plot against security and stability, unmasked after the arrest of those involved," he told the weekly Al Mithaq, mouthpiece of the ruling General People's Congress.

The official, who was not identified, added that five suspects have confessed "to having been recruited by elements living abroad and to receiving funds to carry out" the dynamite attacks that targeted three petrol stations. The blasts caused no casualties.

The official identified the suspects as Wael Hud Hassan, Wanis Atiq Ahmad Sacarib, Abdelilah Mussa, Mohammad Ibrahim, Mohammad Issa Mohammad Zubaidi and Rami Mohammad Said Hazzam.

They belong to "parties which had triggered the war and proclaimed the secession" of southern Yemen in 1994, he added. Interior Minister Hussein Arab last week announced that the five suspects were brought to the general prosecutor's office.

Two opposition groups, the Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP) and the League of the Sons of Yemen (LSY) have reported the arrest of 71 of their members in the southern provinces after the blasts.

## Opposition denies Iran arrested 'spies'

NICOSIA (AFP) — The People's Mujahadeen of Iran, the armed Iranian opposition movement, Monday denied Iran's announcement that it has arrested pro-Iraqi Iranian and Iraqi spies.

In a statement faxed to Agence France Presse, the group said, the "Iranian intelligence ministry disseminated falsities yesterday and today about the arrest of a joint team of Mujahadeen and Iraqis and the Mujahadeen's 'cooperation' with 'the secret services of Iraq'."

The group said Iran was trying to divert attention from recent blows against the government.

"Large numbers of Mujahadeen agents were killed or wounded in extensive clashes in recent weeks in

the provinces of Khuzestan [southwest], Ilam [West] and Kerman [South] between the Mujahadeen ... and the Pasdaran [revolutionary guards corps] and intelligence ministry agents," the statement said.

Some members of the Mujahadeen were arrested during the skirmishes, it added. The Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported Monday that the intelligence services arrested last week four spies — two Iraqis and two Iranians — who it said were linked to the Iraqi secret services.

IRNA said the four had illegally entered Iran and were collaborating with the Iraq-based Mujahadeen.

## Sudanese MP reported killed in fighting

KHARTOUM (R) — A Sudanese member of parliament was killed in fighting between the government and the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), Sudanese state television has said.

It said in a report Monday that Ibrahim Mohammad Al Amin Ibrahim, a

Jezira state deputy in central Sudan, was "martyred in the operations areas in the south of the country."

It gave no further details.

It is not the first time a member of the national assembly, or parliament, has been killed in the 14-year civil war that has pitted mainly Christian and

animist rebels in the south against the Muslim Arab north.

In March, Mohammed Osman Hussein, a northern member who represented a constituency in the lakes state in the south, was killed in action.

In January, Sudan blamed Ethiopia for the military offensive

launched in southeast Sudan, which has since resulted in the SPLA's capture of numerous towns. Ethiopia denied the charge.

A coalition of northern and southern opposition forces fighting to overthrow the Islamist government claimed responsibility for the attacks.

### JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

### PROGRAMME TWO

14:10 .....Cartoons  
15:00 .....Global Garder  
15:30 .....Spell Binder  
16:00 .....Monsters Today  
16:30 .....Brown Town  
17:00 .....French Programmes  
19:00 .....News in French  
19:30 .....News Headlines  
19:35 .....Neighbours  
20:00 .....Soldier's Diary  
20:30 .....Oraph Winfrey Show  
21:10 .....Spencer For Hire  
22:00 .....News in English  
22:30 .....Land's End  
23:15 .....American Gothic

### PRAYER TIMES

04:28 .....Fajr  
05:53 .....(Sunrise)Dua  
12:40 .....Dhuhr  
16:20 .....Asr  
19:28 .....Maghreb  
20:53 .....Isha

### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweifef, Tel. 810740  
Assemblies of God Church Tel. 632785  
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440  
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757  
Terra Sancta Church Tel. 622366  
Anglican Church Tel. 652826  
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

### Armenian Orthodox Church

Tel. 775261.

### St. Ephraim Church Tel.

771751.

### Amman International Church

Tel. 5516245

### Evangelical Lutheran Church

Tel. 824328.

### German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel.

845457

### The Latter-Day Saints Tel.

654932.

### Church of Nazareth Tel.

675691.

### The Evangelical Local Church

in Amman Tel. 811295

### English-speaking Latin Catholics Parish Tel.

614190.

### WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be moderate and temperatures 3-4 degrees below seasonal average. In Aqaba, it will be hot and seas calm.

### Amman

18/28

### Aqaba

26/37

### Deserts

17/32

### Jordan Valley

24/36

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 30, Aqaba 38 Humidity readings: Amman 43 per cent, Aqaba 40 per cent.

### USEFUL

### TELEPHONE NUMBERS

### NIGHT DUTY

Dr. Khalidoun Asfour .....699440

Dr. Tawfiq Qub'an .....623029

Dr. Hisham Kan'an .....790286

Dr. Awni Hawandeh 832350

Firas pharmacy .....661912

Ferdows pharmacy .....890280

Al Asema pharmacy .....637055

Al Salam pharmacy .....637630

Yaoub pharmacy .....644945

Shmeisani pharmacy 637660

Naironkh pharmacy .....623672

Najib pharmacy .....847632

IRBID:

Dr. Ghazi Ta'anneh .....250080

Al Quds pharmacy .....(-)

ZARQA:

Dr. Akram Haddad .....985550

Khalifeh pharmacy .....985417

### EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre .....637111

Civil Defence Department 611111

Civil Defence Immediate 630341

Civil Defence Emergency 199

Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777

Fire Brigade .....617101

Blood Bank .....775121

Highway Police .....843402

Traffic Police .....896390

Public Security Department 630321

630321

### Hotel Complaints

605800

### Price Complaints

661176

### Water and Sewerage Complaints

897467

### Amman Municipality Complaints

787111

### Telephone Information (directory assistance)

121

### Overseas Calls

010230

### Central Amman Telephone Repairs

623101

### Abdali Telephone Repairs

661101

### Jordan Television

773111

### Radio Jordan

774111

### Water Authority

680100

### Jordan Electricity Authority

815615

### Electric Power Company

636381

### RJ Flight Information

08-53200

### Queen Alia Intl. Airport

08-53200

### HOSPITALS

#### AMMAN:

Russeini Medical Centre 813813/32

Khalidi Maternity, 644281/6

Akileh Maternity, 642441/2

Jabal Amman Maternity 642362

Malhas, J. Amman .....636140

Palestine, Shmeisani 607071

Shmeisani Hospital 669131

University Hospital 845845

### Al-Muasher Hospital

667227/9

The Islamic, Abdali 666126/37

Al-Ahli, Abdali .....664164/6

Italian, Al-Muhajreen 777101/3

Al-Bashir, .....775111/26

Army, Marka .....891611/15

Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50

Amal Hospital .....674155

The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery .....865199

ZARQA:

Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323

Zarqa National Hospital (09)900560

Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732

Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)990990

IRBID:

Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555

Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272275

Ibn Al Nafees Hospital (02)247100

AQABA:

Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

### FOR THE TRAVELLER

#### QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the

### Queen Alia International Airport





Minister of Social Development Mohammad Khair Mamsar Tuesday confirmed that 120,000 families live under the line of absolute poverty. In a seminar at the Circassian Society, the minister tallied families in need of assistance as including a total of 800,000 persons as well as 100,000 disabled individuals (Petra photo)

## Japan grants \$50,000 to increase then release Nubian ibex population

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Japanese government will grant \$50,000 to the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN) to help finance the society's plans to increase the number of the Nubian ibexes in the Wadi Mujib Wildlife Reserve.

The grant will also cover the purchase of veterinary equipment for these animals.

A grant agreement was signed at the RSCN head office by RSCN President Anis Muasher and Japanese Ambassador to Jordan Takayuki Kimura.

Nubian ibexes are currently under threat of extinction. The ibex are sheltered at the Wadi Mujib reserve which comprises an area of 212-square kilometres and is located near the Dead Sea.

The RSCN previously received grants from the Japan World Exposition Commemorative Fund to support the reserve project.

According to an Embassy of Japan statement, the grant is the second in a series of Japanese Grant Assistance for Grassroots Projects (GAGP) for the Japanese fiscal year 1997.

Japan's contribution to nature conservation in Jordan dates back to February 20, 1995, when it extended

assistance totalling \$128,967 to the RSCN for the Dana Wildlife Project, the statement said.

The conservation scheme is the first release project to be initiated in Jordan and the first such plan concerning the Nubian ibex in the region.

The project aims to augment declining wild ibex populations inside the Mujib Wildlife Reserve and adjoining territories.

Ibex numbers are estimated at between 800 to 1,000 and to date only within the Mujib and Dana Wildlife Reserves does the taxon enjoy any degree of protection, the statement said.

In 1989, the RSCN established a captive-breeding programme for the species at the 215-square-kilometre reserve to stem the decline in number.

The initial group of 20 Nubian ibex has multiplied to well over 100 individuals and sufficient stocks are now available for release, according to the statement.

Concurrently the world global ibex population has declined, it said.

The release scheme involves freeing groups of 10-15 ibex to be taken from the main herd and discharged in a pre-release enclosure.

Selected individuals will

undergo a 2-3 month habituation programme prior to release, according to the statement.

The ibex then will be monitored closely by a team of researchers and experts using advanced telemetry equipment.

Wadi Mujib is one of six national wildlife reserves managed by the RSCN.

Subsequent to the signing ceremony, Mr. Muasher maintained that the society is pursuing the creation of natural reserves for various wildlife and plants in danger of extinction.

The RSCN will soon release the ibexes in their natural habitat, he said.

Mr. Muasher explained that the ibex might be cross-bred with other tame animals in Jordan.

Jordan is a natural home for the ibex, and it is vital that Jordanians protect these animals from extinction and prohibit their hunt, he stated.

The society exerted strenuous efforts to obtain the ibex from the city of San Diego in the United States, according to Mr. Muasher.

Mr. Kimura lauded RSCN efforts to protect these animals.

Japan is ready to provide the society with further assistance for future projects, he said.

## International Committee of the Red Cross releases annual global report

By Tareq Ayyoub  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Despite continuous regional conflicts and crises, the 1996 International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) report indicated that more Middle Eastern countries are cooperating with the Geneva-based organisation.

Announcing the annual global report, ICRC Head of Mission in Amman Jacques de Maio yesterday affirmed that subsequent to years of patient efforts, memoranda of understanding were signed with both the Bahraini authorities and the Palestine National Authority (PNA).

These authorised visits to prisoners arrested and detained for security reasons.

Mr. De Maio described the Jordanian government as demonstrating "exemplary cooperation" with his mission in Amman.

In a press conference, he confirmed that the delegation in Amman paid regular visits to Jordanian detainees in the General Intelligence Directorate (GID) and was also given access to detainees under interrogation at the Public Security Directorate (PSD).

These were mainly concentrated in the rehabilitation and correctional centres of Juwaidah and Swaqa and in the Zarqa Military Centre, according to Mr. De Maio.

"In the wake of unrest in mid-August (of last year) in the south of Jordan, there was sharp but short-lived increase in the number of detainees, followed by several ICRC visits to different detention centres," he added.

Last year, riots broke out in the southern city of Karak following a decision to replace a government subsidy on bread with cash.

Mr. De Maio stated that there are no political detainees in Jordan and described the ICRC visits as for "persons who were detained and arrested by security agencies for purely security [related] reasons."

He declined to confer figures on the number of these detainees.

The ICRC official stated that his commission organised two visits by families of Jordanian and Palestinian detainees in Kuwait and that more visits are expected to take place in the near future.

He did not further elaborate on the number of Jordanian or Palestinian detainees in the Gulf emirate.

In 1996, the ICRC responded to a number of crisis situations in the Middle East; "the Grapes of Wrath" operation in southern Lebanon, violence in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, and fighting between rival Kurdish factions in northern Iraq.

Intensive courses were organised for the armed forces in Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Mauritania, Morocco, Syria, and the United Arab Emirates on humanitarian law for military instructors, according to the ICRC report.

The 353-page compendium stated that under the supervision of the Red Cross, 66 Sahrawi prisoners held in Morocco were returned to their families in Western Sahara.

A total of 722 Iraqi prisoners of war (PoWs) were repatriated to Iran, the report stated.

Negligible progress was recorded in accounting for hundreds of Kuwaiti, Saudi Arabian, Iraqi and other nationals reported missing in the Gulf crisis, according to the study.

Regarding the Palestinian self-rule areas, the report described the continuing presence of a growing number of Jewish settlers in Gaza Strip and the West Bank, the close proximity of Israeli and Palestinian communities, and the presence of Israeli troops as giving rise to tension.

A family visiting programme for Palestinian detainees, was "seriously hampered and eventually suspended due to continuous closures of the Gaza Strip and the West Bank," the report said.

According to the ICRC, in Iraq last year, three visits were made to 64 Iranian servicemen captured in the years 1991 and 1992 and detained in Ramadi camp, near Baghdad.

The organisation also made 208 visits to 3,412 detainees held by the Kurdistan Union Party (PUK), the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (KDP) and nine Turkish prisoners held by the Kurdish Workers Party (PKK).

During outbreaks in northern Iraq, the ICRC provided the six main hospitals, in the Erbil and Sulimaniya regions, with emergency medical supplies to treat several thousand casualties.

In Yemen, the ICRC continued visits to detention centres, under the jurisdiction of that country's Ministry of the Interior and Political Security Administration, and developed a major sanitation programme.

ICRC Mission in Amman Spokesman Mou' in Qais asserted that among the ICRC's outstanding achievements in 1996 was a treaty banning land mines worldwide, to be signed in Canada later this year.

Many expressed their support for the treaty, which was the outcome of two years of efforts between the ICRC and other international agencies, he said.

Jordan is among the countries which will benefit from the treaty, as more than 250,000 land mines are planted there as a result of the Arab-Israeli conflict, according to Mr. Qais.

One-third of all land mines are located in the Middle East, he added.

According to the report, in 1996, ICRC activists visited 2,100 detention centres in 52 countries in Asia, Africa, Europe and Latin America to inspect the living and health conditions of more than 172,500 detainees.

Nine ICRC workers were killed in the course of duty last year, Mr. De Maio confirmed.

## UNFPA fund to grant JD 200,000 to Arab-African forum

AMMAN (Petra) — The U.N. Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) will grant JD 200,000 to the Amman-based Arab-African Parliamentary Forum (AAPF) to promote the latter's parliamentary activities, as stipulated by an agreement signed in Amman Tuesday.

The agreement was signed for the AAPF by Deputy Samir Habashneh, the forum's secretary general, and by UNFPA Representative Nafis Sadek.

During the signing ceremony, Mr. Habashneh affirmed the grant will finance population studies which the AAPF is undertaking in cooperation with the Jordanian Parliamentary Committee on Development and population Affairs.

Amman was chosen as the locale for the AAPF regional office during the Arab and African parliamentary meeting, held in South Africa last May, he added.

One of the main AAPF programmes will be a revision of parliamentary legislation in African and Arab countries within the per-



Deputy Samir Habashneh and UNFPA Representative Nafis Sadek Tuesday sign a contract stipulating a JD 200,000 grant to support the Amman-based Arab-African Parliamentary Forum (Petra photo)

spective of policies delineated at the AAPF's first constituent conference, according to Mr. Habash-

neh. The AAPF hopes to boost its programmes by enlisting the assistance of additional

staff members who will be charged with population-related issues, he concluded.

## Government endorses chemical weapons ban

AMMAN (Petra) — The government Tuesday endorsed an international treaty banning the production and usage of hazardous chemical weapons.

The treaty had been ratified as international law on April 29, 1997.

According to a statement, following a regular Cabinet session, the treaty's endorsement exemplified the Kingdom's support of international organisations to dispose of weapons of mass destruction.

It was also directed at sustaining efforts directed towards establishing global peace and security, the statement said.

The government's endorsement constitutes the Kingdom's contribution to salvaging the Middle East peace process, according to the statement.

The Cabinet also endorsed a memorandum, signed by the Jordanian and German governments, providing a DM 3 million grant to safeguard the façade of the ancient city of Petra.

The government designated Minister of Planning Rima Khalaf to sign the agreement which is directed towards reducing rock erosion.

The Cabinet approved Jordan's membership on an International Islamic Red Crescent Committee.

The Cabinet also formed a delegation to participate in Arab Ecological Camp activities in Syria.

The delegation will be composed of personnel working for the Ministry of Culture and Youth.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

### FILM

\* "Children's film 'Bedknobs and Broomsticks' at the British Comedy Jambal Amman at 5:00 p.m.

### LECTURE

\* Petra: The Great Temple by Martha Joukowsky at the American Center of Oriental Research (Tel. 846-117) at 7:00 p.m.

### EXHIBITIONS

\* Photography exhibition by Claudia Pedotti at the Jordan Arts and Crafts Centre/Artisana Jambal Amman, Second Circle (Tel. 647858) until Aug. 1

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Government approves ambassador

AMMAN (Petra) — The government has approved the Ugandan nomination of Mohammad Ahmad Kaysooli as Uganda's non-resident ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Jordan.

### Jordan, Mauritania to convene

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan and Mauritania Tuesday signed minutes of a meeting regarding cooperation between the Jordan National Electric Power Company (NEPCO) and the Mauritanian National Water and Electricity Company (MNWEC). The two sides agreed to hold frequent meetings as well as to exchange information and expertise in the field of electricity. The minutes were signed by NEPCO Director General Mohammad Said Arafah and MNWEC Director General Sidi Weld El Riha.

### 3rd Shabib Festival announced

ZARQA (Petra) — Under the patronage of HRH Princess Rajwa Ali, the third Shabib Festival for Culture and Art will be held at Shabib archaeological site east of Zarqa. Performing at the three-day festival will be several Arab singers, poets and troupes. The festival is also slated to include two exhibitions — one for children's books, and drawings, and the second for children's toys.

## Early childhood specialists, officials meet to discuss NTFC strategies

By Rana Hussein  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Over 50 officials and early childhood specialists met Tuesday to discuss National Task Force for Children (NTFC) strategies.

The meeting, held at the organisation's headquarters in Shmeisani, was a preparatory step for a general meeting of all organisations and individuals concerned with children's welfare in the Kingdom, according to former Minister of Social Development Inam Mufti.

The NTFC, a non-governmental organisation established in 1995 by Royal Decree and chaired by Her Majesty Queen Noor, acts as a coordinating and supporting agency for national efforts for children's survival, protection, development and participatory rights.

In co-partnership with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the NTFC is also working for the advancement of local legislation on children's rights and child protection.

"The aim of this coalition is to coordinate, collaborate and consolidate existing institutions and specialists working in the field of child welfare to establish the National Coalition for Children (NCCI)," Ms. Mufti told the gathering.

She emphasised that the NTFC aims to "meet the needs and demands of our children, and prepare the proper milieu to face future challenges and issues that our children might be properly raised."

"The NTFC does not want to impose ideas or rules, but rather prefers to meet with specialists and child advocates," Ms. Mufti maintained.

She described the NTFC as intending to form a communication net to exchange information, and update studies on early childhood.

### Childhood needs reviewed

Nadia Sour, who presented a review on several UNICEF studies on early childhood in Jordan, stated that these revealed a lack of basic needs met and other early childhood deficits.

Dr. Sour criticised statistics concerning day-care centres and kindergartens in the Kingdom, as well as the number of teachers and children at these institutes.

"There are statistics, but unfortunately they contain inaccuracies, and at some points, are contradictory," Dr. Sour said. "This was a major obstacle in attempting to link these

numbers to reality."

Further, she said that the study revealed that priorities, such as legislation regarding children's rights, parental awareness concerning aspects of their children's day-care centres, pertinent institutes relating thereto and their organisation, must receive a greater focus.

Dr. Sour also pointed to the poor conditions in some kindergartens in terms of offering heat, proper nourishment, education, competent teachers, commensurate pay and other relevant facilities.

The NTFC, through its Research and Database Centre for Children, will compile comprehensive research to highlight children's needs and rights and disseminate data to all concerned institutions.

Jordan signed the Arab Charter on the Rights of the Arab Child in 1987 and ratified the International Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1991.

These rights include: the right to life, development, protection and societal participation.

The NTFC also monitors the condition and status of children in accordance with the Arab and International Convention on the Rights of the Child and the National Plan Action for Children.



# Afghan fighting sparks Red Cross humanitarian alert

KABUL (R) — The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said Tuesday that a flare-up in fighting in Afghanistan between the Islamist Taliban militia and opposition forces was causing the humanitarian situation to deteriorate.

In a press communiqué released in Geneva, the ICRC also criticised the authorities in opposition-held northern Afghanistan for denying the ICRC access to an estimated 3,000 prisoners of war.

"The ongoing fighting between the northern coalition and the Taliban in northern Afghanistan has prompted a major humanitarian alert and a marked increase in the emergency response of the International Committee of the Red Cross," says the communiqué.

Fighting flared north of Kabul in May when an opposition group under the former government's top military commander Ahmad Shah Masood broke out of his stronghold in the Panjshir valley in the foothills of the Hindu Kush mountains to challenge the Taliban in the plains some 100 kilometres north of the Afghan capital.

Three weeks ago the opposition pushed the Taliban back to within 20 kilometres of Kabul. Although

there has been little change in the front lines, there have been sporadic attacks and fierce exchanges of artillery and rocket fire.

The Red Cross says that it has treated some 7,000 war wounded on both sides of the front line in the last three months.

"We haven't had so many people wounded in a similar period over the last three years. There are clearly signs of an escalation in the conflict," said Thomas Gurner, acting head of the ICRC in Afghanistan, Tuesday.

Mr. Gurner said that he has noticed a deterioration in the control over fighters by the authorities.

"The ICRC is really worried about a general trend in Afghanistan where we feel there are more and more local initiatives taken which are not checked by the central authorities. We feel that the overall situation, especially for civilians is deteriorating," said Mr. Gurner.

"The high authorities may accept that minimum respect is due, but they are facing increasing problems to discipline and ensure that lower ranks respect the basic principles of humanity," he said.

The Red Cross communiqué also criticises opposition commanders for denying them access to some of the thousands of prisoners

of war they are holding.

"Since May 1997 the ICRC has had access to and registered some 3,400 detained combatants and civilians. However, despite repeated representations, the organisation has been consistently denied access to an estimated 3,000 additional detainees held mainly in Faryab, Jawzjan, and Balkh provinces."

"The ICRC deplores this failure to comply with humanitarian principles and solemnly appeals to the relevant authorities in the north to respect their commitments and facilitate access to all places of detention under their control," says the communiqué.

The provinces of Faryab, Jawzjan and Balkh are controlled by forces loyal to General Abdul Malik, leader of one of the partners in the tripartite anti-Taliban alliance.

Gen. Malik joined the Taliban briefly in May, but turned on them and drove them from the alliance stronghold of Mazar-e-Sharif. Many Taliban were killed and many more captured, including the Taliban governor of the Central Bank and a provincial governor who were in Mazar at the time of the rebellion.

Mr. Gurner said that the ICRC is getting access to most of the detention centres in the strongholds of the

other two member of the opposition alliance, Bamian and Panjshir valley.

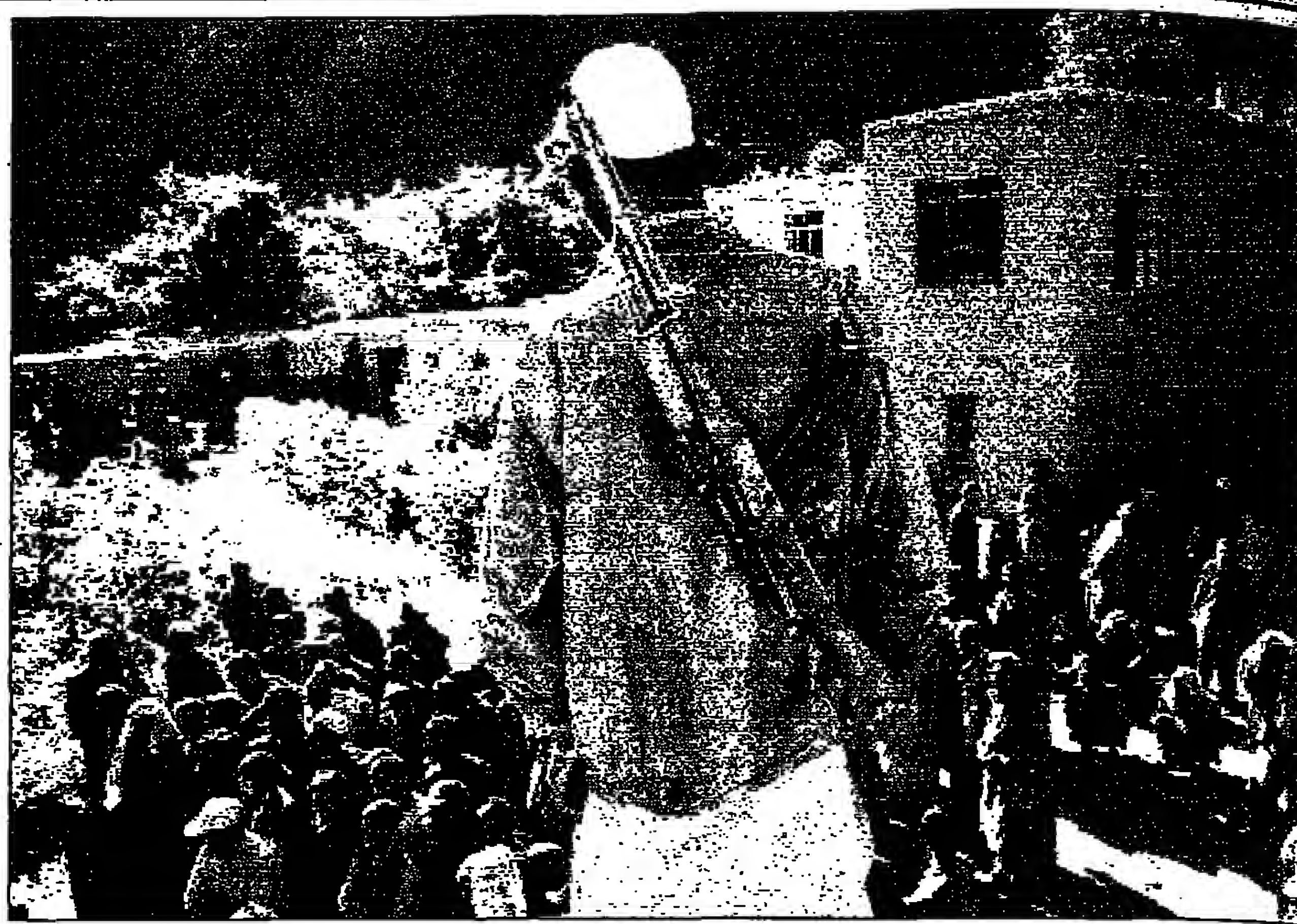
"Reasonable access is granted to us in Bamian and Panjshir and in Taliban-controlled areas, although there are problems there as well. We have taken them up with the concerned authorities," he said.

A week ago, the Taliban lodged a protest with the ICRC and the United Nations over the opposition's refusal to allow them access to detained prisoners of war and accused the opposition of the murder and torture of detainees.

Mr. Gurner declined to comment on the allegations, but said that all such charges would be taken up with the relevant authorities.

The Taliban have demanded the release of prisoners of war as a precondition for any peace talks. The opposition has refused, and say that any release should be negotiated as part of the talks.

Born in Islamic schools for Afghan war refugees living in neighbouring Pakistan, the Taliban quickly took control of most of the country, including Kabul, which it took in September. It has imposed strict interpretations of Islamic law in areas it has conquered.



A guard at the Baharak prison camp watches some 1,600 prisoners-of-war in the opposition stronghold of the Panjshir Valley north of the Afghan capital Kabul. The International Red Cross (ICRC) in Geneva have released a communiqué criticising the authorities in the opposition-held northern Afghanistan for denying the ICRC access to an estimated 3,000 prisoners-of-war, prompting a 'major humanitarian alert' (Reuters photo)

## Plane crashes more frightening than Chinese missiles — Taiwanese

TAIPEI (AFP) — The spectre of plane crashes is more frightening than the threat of Chinese missile attacks, residents of Taiwan's frontline Matsu Island were quoted as saying Tuesday.

Gathered at a press conference to protest about air safety on the island following a crash there Sunday, some 100 residents waved banners saying "not frightened by Chinese communist missiles but by poor airport," the United Daily News reported.

All 16 people on board a Formosa Airlines Dornier 228 were killed when it ploughed into a Matsu hill-top Sunday in heavy rain.

It followed another crash on April 5, 1996, when five people were killed when a plane plunged into the sea off Matsu. Aviation officials blamed human error for that accident and the pilot was sentenced to 30 months in jail.

Residents of the island, which lies just 20 kilometres from mainland China, held the Monday press conference to demand immediate improvements to air safety.

The National Assembly deputy representing the island, Tsao Yuan-Chang, called for senior transport officials to resign over the latest crash.

Authorities have launched an investigation into the accident but the cause has not been established.

The weatherman responsible for keeping the airport open in bad weather attempted to commit suicide by self-immolation Monday, believing he was responsible for the crash.

Ouyang Kangyuan, the only weather observer at Matsu island's airport and who was responsible for deciding whether the runway should remain open, was found setting light to himself in his office early Monday morning.

"My suicide was not intended to shirk responsibility, although results of the investigation are still not out," the 47-year-old said in a suicide note.

"But I could not sleep at the thought of the 16 deaths. I prefer to die," Doctors said he was in an unstable condition Tuesday after suffering burns to 70 per cent of his body.

## North Korea rules out direct talks before South's presidential polls

TOKYO (AFP) — North Korean leaders have ruled out direct talks with the Seoul leadership and are awaiting the outcome of December presidential elections in the South, a U.S. congressman said Tuesday after a trip to Pyongyang.

"They absolutely want nothing to do with the present leadership of South Korea and they plan to make no movements toward negotiations until after the elections," Porter Goss told a press conference here.

Mr. Goss led a seven member group from the U.S. Congress, the largest and highest-level delegation to visit in their relations, on a trip to North Korea from Saturday to Monday.

As well as addressing simmering political tensions on the Korean peninsula, the delegation also hinted future U.S. aid to alleviate crippling food shortages in the Stalinist North could be conditional on sweeping changes to infrastructure in the country.

The delegation had "cordial but candid" talks with First Foreign Affairs Minister Kang Sok-Ju and the head of the Foreign Ministry's Department of U.S. Affairs, Li Hyong-Chol, Mr. Goss said.

During "frank discussions" the topic of "mutual mistrust" was raised several times.

"They would be willing to deal with South Korea because they believe Koreans should get together and have solution for the problems, that's where their future lies," Mr. Goss said.

"But they are not prepared to take a step toward that future till after the elections," he said.

He cited the death of former North Korean President Kim Il-Sung as an example of Pyongyang's distrust of the current leadership in Seoul.

"They declared to us that they were very insulted by the (South Korean) president's failure to pay proper respects at the demise of the great leader, that was apparently a great hurt," Mr. Goss said.

South Korea's President Kim Young-Sam did not send his condolences at the death of the North Korean leader in July 1994.

Representatives of North and South Korea, China and the United States met in New York last week for landmark talks in a bid to try to set out fully-fledged negotiations for a Korean Peninsula peace treaty.

But the talks ended after three days without any agreement on an agenda or a firm date for full negotiations. The four-way talks about talks are set to resume again on September 15.

An armistice ended the 1950-53 Korean war but has never been replaced by a permanent peace mechanism.

At the weekend North Korea rejected as "foolish," a U.S. offer for direct inter-Korean dialogue, insisting peace cannot be ensured as long as U.S. troops are in South Korea.

All members of the delegation concluded that the state of the economy and the famine situation in North Korea were extremely serious, but drought and floods had simply high-

lighted North Korea's "great failure" in its "aptitude to feed (its) people," said Georgia Congressman Sanford Bishop.

Despite repeated requests, the delegation was not allowed to go to areas worst hit by famine or able to witness the distribution of international aid.

"North Korea must make its food distribution to the civilian population fully transparent and verifiable in order to facilitate the United States' consideration of additional assistance," a statement released by the delegation said.

During the talks, North Korean officials continually demanded the lifting of U.S. sanctions on Pyongyang.

But the congressmen restated U.S. policy that the lifting of "sanctions must be negotiated as part of a larger political package involving proliferation and other security matters," the statement said.

"North Korea must cease its sale of advanced weaponry, missile systems and supporting technologies to 'rogue states,'" the delegation said, noting that sales were apparently dictated by commercial, rather than political considerations.

California Congresswoman Jane Harman said North Korean officials had said they were willing to sell short range missiles to Iran but not medium range missiles capable of hitting Israel.

Charles Bass, a New Hampshire Republican said an official had told him "if you want us to stop exporting missiles buy them from us."

## Chinese security throws heavy guard around Beijing's band of dissidents

BEIJING (AFP) — China's security organs have thrown a heavy guard around Beijing's dwindling band of dissidents, with at least one detained briefly and four reporting round-the-clock surveillance in the run-up to the 15th party congress.

Jin Cheng, a 38-year-old former Beijing official, received a 24-hour police watch when he was released after his second detention in four days for criticising central government policy.

"He was released late last night after 15 hours in the police station, but now there is a constant watch on our door," his wife Liu Xiuli said Tuesday.

"They are in plainclothes and they won't speak to us, but they followed him to work and are watching him there," she said in a telephone interview with AFP.

Mr. Jin was picked up by three plainclothes police as he left for work Monday after he wrote to parliamentary chief, Qiao Shi and demanded that disgraced Beijing Party Secretary Chen Xitong be tried for corruption.

The fate of Mr. Chen, who was placed under house arrest in 1995, is due to be decided before the 15th party congress in the autumn.

Final preparations for the five-yearly congress are already underway, with the top leadership meeting this week in the seaside resort of Beidaihe to put finishing touches to their policies.

"The atmosphere is already very tense ahead of the 15th party congress," said veteran dissident, Qin Yongmin, who said Tuesday he had penned a letter to Party Chief Jiang Zemin calling for a start to political reform at the congress.

Even for the wives of dissidents — who as far as the government is concerned are tarred with the same brush as their husbands — security has visibly tightened.

"The situation has definitely got worse in the last few days," said Wang Zhihong, wife of dissident Chen Ziming who has been released on medical parole on the condition that he does not speak with journalists or leave the house without police permission.

"I now have three or four people following me in a car whenever I go out, when it used to only be one or two," she said.

The wife of imprisoned activist Liu Xiaobo said she too had been put under police surveillance.

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## S. Korea defence ministry to inspect airports

SEOUL (R) — South Korea's Ministry of National Defence said Tuesday it would start inspecting 12 airports around the country next week to ensure flight safety after the fatal crash of a Korean Air Lines (KAL) plane in Guam.

"We maintain the airport facilities on a regular basis but have decided to conduct an overall check after the accident of KAL," said an official at the Defence Ministry.

The official who declined to be identified said South Korea has 16 airports of

which four are under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Construction and Transportation.

The Transportation Ministry said it started its own inspection of the four airports Tuesday, including Gimpo Airport in Seoul and an airport on the southern island of Cheju, a popular holiday destination.

A statement by the Defence Ministry said it would seek the cooperation of the Transportation

Ministry and an air force specialist on air-traffic control for next week's exami-

nations. An investigation is under way by the U.S. National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) to determine why KAL's Boeing 747 carrying 254 people ploughed into a hill minutes before landing at the airport on the Pacific island.

So far 28 people have survived the tragedy. Twenty-two survivors were airlifted back to Seoul for treatment. Most of them suffer burns and cuts, but doctors say their lives are not in danger.

A mother and her daughter, both Americans, of Korean descent suffering bruises but no burns, arrived in Seoul Tuesday.

KAL officials have said an out-of-service landing instrument is one possible cause of the accident. The KAL officials also acknowledged they had known about repairs on the instrument.

The Defence Ministry said it would be looking over control tower facilities and instruments and procedures used in the landing and take off of planes. It would also inspect airports' emergency plans to deal with accidents.

## Clinton expected to visit India in 1998 — Gujral

NEW DELHI (R) — President Bill Clinton plans to visit India next year, the first U.S. leader to travel to the south Asian nation since Jimmy Carter in 1978, Prime Minister Inder Kumar Gujral said Monday.

Mr. Gujral told CNN television in an interview that Mr. Clinton had accepted his invitation to visit India during year-long celebrations following the 50th anniversary of independence on Aug. 15.

"I have invited President Clinton to visit us in this golden jubilee year. He is

most welcome whenever he wants to come," the Indian leader said.

Asked if Mr. Clinton had responded to the invitation, Mr. Gujral said, "The response is positive, and, whatever, I gather he will be visiting us in the calendar year of 1998."

Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao visited the United States in 1994. U.S. First Lady Hillary Clinton came to India in 1995, and Secretary of State Madeleine Albright is expected to visit before the end of 1997.

Jimmy Carter, who visited

India in early January 1978, was the last U.S. president to come to India.

Mr. Gujral was asked if he felt Washington paid little attention politically to India.

"Sometimes it is very interesting for us to see how American policy makers think of Asia as a whole," he said.

"Although we would like to be friendly with the United States, it is for them to take notice of the level."

During the cold war, ties between Washington and New Delhi were strained as

India, while officially non-aligned, nurtured a strong military and economic relationship with Moscow.

But since the breakup of the Soviet Union and the launching of free-market reforms in India in 1991, the United States and India have strengthened links.

The United States is India's largest trading partner and investor.

India is waiting for Washington to send an ambassador to New Delhi to replace Frank Wisner, who quit the diplomatic corps for the private sector last month.

## Kashmir security tightened ahead of anniversary

SRINAGAR (AFP) — Indian troops and paramilitary personnel tightened security in the disputed state of Kashmir Tuesday ahead of the country's 50th anniversary of independence, police said.

Federal border guards set up road blocks and carried out house-to-house searches in several residential districts of Srinagar following threats of violence and sabotage from Muslim separatist militants.

They also sealed off the Bakshi sports stadium, the venue for the official celebrations on August 15.

Militants fighting for

Kashmir's independence from India or its merger with Pakistan mark independence day each year by staging attacks on security forces and enforcing a general strike.

They traditionally celebrate Pakistan's Independence Day, on August 14, by flying Pakistani flags from trees.

India and Pakistan each hold parts of the Muslim-majority province.

Tuesday's increased security came a day after an explosion at a bridge in Srinagar killed two men and wounded six.

The blast has been blamed

on separatists although no one has claimed responsibility.

In another attack late Monday, a civilian was killed and six people were injured when militants launched a grenade attack on security forces in the city. No security personnel were hurt.

Jihad Council, an alliance of eight pro-Pakistan militant groups, has threatened to attack security forces across the Himalayan state ahead of the independence day.

The Freedom Conference, meanwhile, an umbrella group of about two dozen

pro-independence political organisations, has called upon people to observe a general strike on August 15.

India and Pakistan have fought two wars over Kashmir since their independence in 1947.

New Delhi accuses Islamabad of arming and training separatist guerrillas. Pakistan says its support is limited to diplomacy for what it calls a legitimate struggle for self-determination.

More than 20,000 people have died in Indian-administered Kashmir since the launch of an armed separatist campaign in 1989.

## Indian producer killed in new 'Bollywood' attack

BOMBAY (AFP) — An Indian multi-millionaire film producer died in a hail of bullets Tuesday, gunned down by Bombay underworld killers as he left a Hindu temple, police said.

The gunmen fired 17 bullets at Gulshan Kumar from a taxi, a police spokesman said.

Kumar, who was returning to his car after praying at the temple, was hit in the face, neck and chest. He was declared dead on arrival at hospital.

Kumar was a well-known figure in the Indian film industry and a successful business tycoon. It was the third attack on film producers in the city in recent weeks.

Maharashtra State Chief Minister Manohar Joshi told a press conference: "We will get the killers soon. All exit points from the city have been sealed."

He said the Bombay underworld "now seems to be tar-

geting the film industry. This is the third attack here on film personalities in the past month. Kumar had not complained of any threat to his life."

Bombay, in the western state of Maharashtra, is regarded as India's movie capital and is nicknamed "Bollywood."

"We are very very concerned about this as the film industry is one of the jewels of our state," Mr. Joshi said.

He added a probe would be carried out into the "Nexus" between the underworld and the film industry.

Krishan Dev Sherey, general secretary of the Film Makers Combine, an association of film producers, said the killing had created "panic in the industry. This is a horrible incident. It is the work of extortionists and the underworld."

Mr. Sherey described Kumar as a very "successful" film producer, with about eight films to his credit.

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## Kenyan alliance suspends 'mass action' for 10 days

NAIROBI (R) — An alliance of opposition-backed groups demanding constitutional reforms in Kenya has suspended "mass action" for 10 days to allow religious leaders to mediate with the ruling party.

In a statement quoted by Nairobi newspapers Tuesday, the National Convention Executive Council (NCEC) said it had learned that Anglican Archbishop David Gitari had asked for mass action to be suspended pending talks between clerics and the ruling party.

The NCEC therefore decided Monday to suspend mass rallies and demonstrations "to give dialogue a chance" through talks between 10 clergymen and the ruling Kenya African National Union (KANU) party.

The suspension followed the deaths of four people, including two policemen, during rallies and clashes last Friday, which prompted Kenyan leaders and foreign diplomats to urge dialogue.

The NCEC was widely criticised by government officials and newspapers over the killing of the two policemen during a general strike called by the alliance that met with only mixed success.

The independent Daily Nation newspaper said Tuesday four youths were arrested at the Nairobi offices of Raila Odinga's opposition National Development Party (NDP) Monday in connection with the death of one of the two policemen Friday.

It said another 88 people were charged elsewhere with involvement in other incidents Friday and 30 other suspects remained in custody. Mr. Odinga said the NDP opposed violence.

Even before Friday's violence, Mr. Moi, aged 73 and in power since the death of founding President Jomo Kenyatta in 1978, had managed to divide the NCEC by offering limited constitutional reforms and pledging a full constitutional review after polls.

Reforms sought by the NCEC would reduce the power of Mr. Moi, who is seeking a new five-year term at a general election this year. No date has been set for presidential and parliamentary polls.

But Mr. Moi's government has come under renewed pressure from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), which halted a key aid package on July 31 because of concern at high-level corruption in Kenya.

The IMF moved to the Kenyan shilling sinking to a record low last Thursday as some foreign investors pulled out. The shilling took a further beating Monday after a slight recovery and opened at an official record low Tuesday of 70.48 to the U.S. dollar.

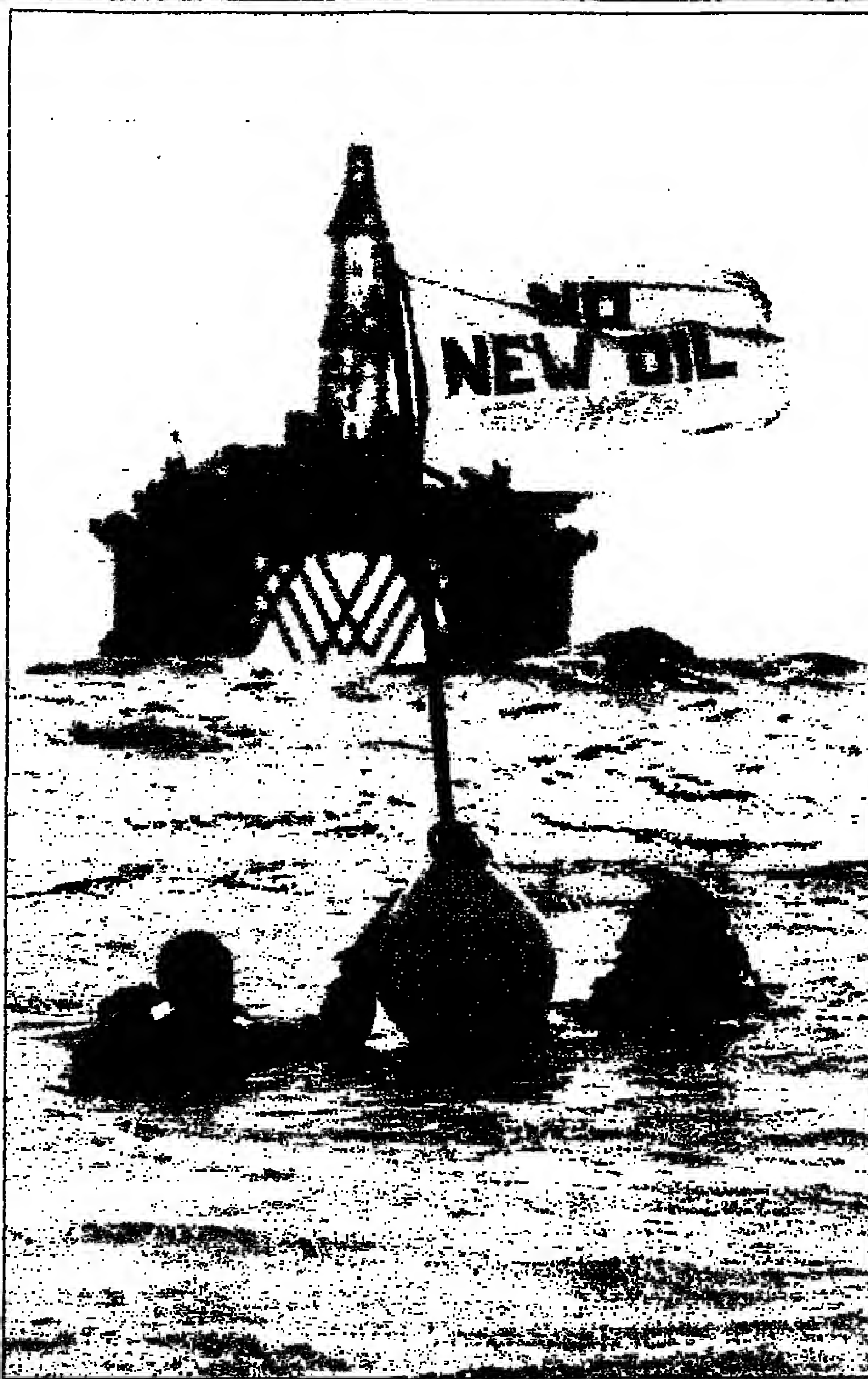
A World Bank official said Monday the World Bank delayed paying part of a loan to Kenya and would find it hard to hand over money until the government addressed corruption concerns.

The official, who asked not to be named, said in Washington the bank shared the concerns of the IMF about corruption.

"The second tranche of our structural adjustment loan had been suspended because policy conditions (on privatisation) had not been met, but we would find it difficult to release this money until the IMF programme is back on track," he said.

He said Kenya received one tranche of the loan last year, but the second tranche of just over \$71 million was not paid.

An energy sector loan, approved by the World Bank board in Washington in June, could also be in doubt because the IMF had singled out energy as a sector suspected of mismanagement.



Greenpeace swimmers protest at sea by trying to stop the Stena Dee platform from reaching British Petroleum's Foinaven oil field in the northern Atlantic (Reuters photo)

## Greenpeace swimmers stop oil platform

LONDON (R) — Greenpeace swimmers plunged into the North Atlantic in front of a mobile BP oil rig Monday in a further bid to prevent the platform from reaching the new Foinaven oil field.

"It (the rig) just started moving, so we put four swimmers into the water about a third of a mile in front of it and it stopped again," a campaigner for the environmental activist group reported by telephone from a nearby vessel.

The rig, British Petroleum Co PLC's Stena Dee, was drifting 50 miles north-west of the Orkney Islands and about 35 kilometres

south of the massive Foinaven field.

It was boarded by Greenpeace activists north of the Shetland Islands Saturday and was also stopped by Greenpeace swimmers Sunday.

Two activists, identified only as Germans, were still on the Stena Dee, having chained themselves to one of the platform's legs.

"We are going to stay as long as possible," one of the two said by satellite phone from the Stena Dee.

Greenpeace wants the oil rig to return to Norway and called on BP to abandon the Foinaven project, the first to be developed in deep

waters west of the Shetland Islands.

The lobby group wants an end to worldwide oil exploration to cut carbon dioxide emissions and halt climate change.

A BP spokesman said Greenpeace's action would not delay its overall operations at Foinaven which is expected to produce oil by the end of the year.

The project has suffered a series of technological mishaps. It was originally due on-stream the middle of 1996.

The spokesman said BP's priority at the moment was the safety of all on board of the Stena Dee.

## Khmer Rouge reportedly join Royalists; Hun Sen meets king

BEIJING (Agencies) — Khmer Rouge fighters have joined soldiers loyal to Prince Norodom Ranariddh to defend outpost border village of Thmar Don, Thai army sources said Tuesday.

Both Thmar Don and O Smach, some 40 kilometres to the east, the last town under the control of Prince Ranariddh's forces, were quiet Tuesday morning. The outposts are among the last significant pockets of resistance to the forces of Mr. Hun Sen.

Thmar Don is in a small wedge of Cambodia's remote northwest on the border with Thailand where several thousand soldiers loyal to Prince Norodom Ranariddh have withdrawn to make a stand against government forces under Mr. Hun Sen.

Fighters from the remnants of the Khmer Rouge movement are holed up some 70 kilometres to the east.

Prince Ranariddh, barred from visiting the border area since his arrival in the Thai capital Bangkok last Saturday, has repeatedly denied his forces were cooperating militarily or politically with Khmer Rouge guerrillas.

Meanwhile Cambodian Strongman Hun Sen met King Norodom Sihanouk Tuesday to try to secure the monarch's stamp of approval for his seizure of power

last month.

A police escort whisked Second Prime Minister Hun Sen and other senior Cambodian officials out of King Sihanouk's tightly-guarded residence in the Chinese capital after a five-hour meeting with the king.

Cambodian embassy officials declined to comment on the meeting, but analysts have said Mr. Hun Sen, who ousted the king's son, co-Premier, Norodom Ranariddh, in a July coup, would seek the monarch's political blessing for his power grab.

The second prime minister arrived in the Chinese capital Monday accompanied by newly appointed First Prime Minister Ung Huot, acting head of state, Chea Sim and a delegation of government officials.

King Sihanouk said earlier that the meeting at his residence would be strictly private, indicating that his decision to withhold an official audience could signal his disapproval of the Cambodian strongman's putsch.

Officials of King Sihanouk's cabinet refused to comment.

King Sihanouk has been in Beijing for medical treatment since February, but has said he will return to Cambodia soon.

The meeting followed a Monday offer to abdicate by King Sihanouk, who has so far declined to endorse Mr. Hun Sen's rule, instead crit-

icising Mr. Ung Huot as a "puppet" of Mr. Hun Sen and likening the current political situation in his country to a "comedy."

King Sihanouk, who has hinted his strong disapproval of Hun Sen's actions, said Monday he was ready to give up the throne as soon as he was confident that the Cambodian leader would not criticise him for doing so.

In Bangkok, Ranariddh said Monday he took his father's offer of abdication as an expression of disapproval of Mr. Hun Sen and slammed his opponent for pushing Cambodia into instability and toward the brink of an all-out civil war.

While Mr. Hun Sen was meeting the king, his new regime in Phnom Penh tightened the screws on Prince Ranariddh by issuing a warrant for the arrest of the deposed prince on charges of weapons smuggling.

Ranariddh fled Cambodia in early July, just before Mr. Hun Sen launched his bloody coup. Cambodia's national assembly voted last Wednesday to strip the prince of his parliamentary immunity.

But a political ally said Tuesday Prince Norodom Ranariddh plans to quit self-exile in Thailand and join his supporters in the jungles of northern Cambodia in his quest to regain power.

Prince Ranariddh's former finance minister, Sam Rainsy, said the deposed prince was negotiating with Thai authorities for safe passage across the border into opposition-controlled areas.

"Immediately he is trying to go back to Cambodia in the regions not controlled by (co-premier) Hun Sen forces," Mr. Sam Rainsy, himself a self-exiled opposition leader, told Reuters in Australia.

"As long as he can cross the border like other Cambodian leaders opposed to Hun Sen, there will be people inside Cambodia who will take care of those people," he added.

A weapons shipment, seized at Cambodia's main port in late May, sparked a serious row between Mr. Hun Sen and Prince Ranariddh and led to a tense stand-off between their security forces.

Mr. Hun Sen called for legal action over the arms, which he said Prince Ranariddh was importing illegally. The prince denied the charges, saying he was entitled to the equipment for use by his personal security force.

Since ousting Ranariddh, Hun Sen has said the prince was free to come back to Cambodia but would have to face court charges in the weapons case and for illegal negotiations with the outlawed Khmer Rouge guerrilla group.

## Killers of S. African communist leader deny conspiracy

PRETORIA (AFP) — Two convicted right-wing assassins fought Tuesday to prevent disclosure of statements which, according to observers, suggest they murdered communist leader, Chris Hani as part of a wider conspiracy.

Janusz Walus and Clive Derby-Lewis, who are serving life jail terms for the April 10, 1993, killing, have said in written confessions to South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission that they acted alone.

The two, however, said that they were politically motivated by South Africa's most powerful right-wing group at the time, the Conservative Party (CP), which they said was "at war" with black liberation groups.

Derby-Lewis — formerly a senior CP leader and parliament member — and Walus both denied guilt during their trial, but have since applied for amnesty to the Truth Commission.

The Commission, which is probing human rights abuses of the apartheid era, has the power to grant amnesty to perpetrators who

fully admit their guilt and can prove political motives.

In statements to the commission, Walus said he and Derby-Lewis carried out the murder "alone," disputing reports it was masterminded by the apartheid government still in power.

South African newspapers have also speculated that some of Hani's own allies in the now-ruling African National Congress (ANC) may have been involved.

Hani, an enormously popular leader, was shot in the head at pointblank range outside his home near Johannesburg.

Lawyers for Hani's family have claimed the killers made statements to police shortly after the murder in which they suggested others may have been involved in the deed, including Derby-Lewis' wife, Gaye.

Gaye Derby-Lewis was charged three years ago and acquitted of involvement in the murder, which nearly sparked a race war in the turbulent period before South Africa's historic April 1994 elections.

Harry Prinsloo, a lawyer for Derby-Lewis, however

said the statements were "inadmissible" because police had given the accused alcohol and deprived them of sleep.

He further claimed that one of the policemen taking the statement was a junior officer who was not suitably qualified in interrogations.

"These statements were acquired in an involuntary manner and as such the applicants have the constitutional right to remain silent," Mr. Prinsloo said.

One of the truth commissioners, Judge Hassan Mall, meanwhile argued that the panel required a "full disclosure" of all statements and evidence, regardless of their admissibility.

"We are not deciding the guilt or innocence of the applicant. We are deciding whether to grant them amnesty," Judge Mall argued before calling a recess.

Walus said Monday he emigrated to south Africa from Poland because he believed it was "governed by Afrikaners who would never capitulate to communism, the latter ideology being by definition godless and thus anti-Christian."

He said he feared "the coming to power of Mr. Hani... would plunge South Africa into a communism of either the same or worse type than that experienced ... in Poland."

Walus, who admitted to pulling the trigger of an illegal gun supplied by Derby-Lewis, added he considered "South Africa was at war."

The right-wing CP, to which both he and Derby-Lewis belonged, "saw Mr. Hani as a real danger and said so."

Derby-Lewis, who was a senior CP leader and a member of parliament at the time, said in his statement that he helped devise a plan to assassinate Hani.

The Hani murder hearings have been attended by several hundred protesters, who sang and pointed at the killers Monday, chanting "down with the murderers."

The event has also been attended by senior political figures, including CP leaders and President Nelson Mandela's controversial ex-wife, Wanie Madikizela-Mandela.

## India reflects on 50 years of success ... and failure

NEW DELHI (AFP) — "At the stroke of the midnight hour," said Jawaharlal Nehru as the seconds ticked away towards August 15, 1947, "when the world sleeps, India will awake to life and freedom."

His following words, however, still hang unanswered, half a century later. "Are we brave enough and wise enough," the country's first prime minister asked, "to grasp this opportunity and accept the challenge of the future?"

India and its 960 million people, spread over 3,287,263 square kilometres, communicating in around 1,000 languages and dialects and worshipping hundreds of gods, seem unconvinced over what reply to give as prepares to mark Friday 50 years since gaining independence.

The lack of spontaneous public euphoria over the anniversary seems to suggest that the majority of Indians feel the failures of the past have matched the successes. Government plans, too, have been strangely muted. Only a re-run of Nehru's historic speech before parliament at midnight Thursday has captured the imagination.

J. N. Dixit, however, a former Indian foreign secretary, is determined to champion the country's many achievements as part of "a national balance sheet" spanning

social, political and economic affairs.

When the British were shamed into leaving India by Mahatma Gandhi's non-violent protest movement, the country, with a history of famines, could not feed its 360 million population.

Today, India is a food exporter. Life expectancy has risen from around 32 to 61 years while literacy rates have tripled, half the population can now read and write.

The economy has grown nearly 15-fold from a gross domestic product (GDP) of \$19 billion in 1950 to around \$280 billion. Mr. Dixit admits that India, which has fought three wars with Pakistan and one border conflict with China since 1947, still has "adversarial relations" with its neighbours.

He says it must still "get its act together economically", admits there is "an undercurrent of anarchy in democracy" and that concerns remain over the country's booming population and its failure to tackle poverty.

But he is "confident about my country and its future."

Former finance minister, Manmohan Singh, who launched massive economic reforms in India after four decades of centralised planning ended in a foreign exchange crisis in 1991, is more concerned over what has remained undone.

Compare India 1997 with India 1947, he argues, and you have a success story.

Compare India's past 50 years of progress to that of its Asian "tiger economy" neighbours, and you have failure.

"We have not done as well as we should have done," he says.

Mr. Singh believes India can become an economic superpower, but it must invest massively in its infrastructure, and more crucially, in its people.

Around 360 million Indians today live under the poverty line.

Their lives have barely changed since the British left. In percentage terms, poverty levels have been cut. In actual terms, the numbers continue to rise.

Women and children have suffered in particular.

The South Asian Coalition on Child Servitude estimates there are 60 million Indian children who work full time, many in dangerous conditions. The U.N. human rights committee says child marriages, mutilation, dowry deaths and self-immolation of widows remain rife in certain areas.

Around 4,000 women are killed every year for failing to pay large enough dowries. Feticide and infanticide of females continue.

Mr. Singh links social problems to economic ones.

"We have to create an environment where we can emerge as a competitive economy and a compassionate humane society. The next three to four years are crucial."

On August 15, Prime Minister Inder Kumar Gujral will try to lift the nation.

"We have made tremendous advances in science and technology," he argues. "Fifty years back, we were importing sewing needles, bicycles, almost everything. Today we launch satellites. But the way ahead will be hard. It is like climbing a hill," he says.

Corruption, in particular, he says, "has seeped into the veins of this nation" and is making the gradient steeper still.

K. R. Narayanan, sworn in last month as India's first "untouchable" president, warns of the "evils of communism, casteism, violence and corruption."

For many, however, India remains a miracle. Simply because this myriad of cultures, peoples and influences, has survived as a democracy.

British-born Indian writer Salman Rushdie acknowledges the country's wars.

But he adds: "I want to extol the virtues of the most important thing that came into being on that midnight, 50 years ago, the innovation that has survived all that history could throw at it; the so-called idea of India."







## King urges Islamists to participate in elections, nation to come out and vote

(Continued from page 1)

He said that the late president had asked him to make moves to restore the occupied Arab lands and finally reach a comprehensive solution.

He reminded his audience that Jordan, Syria and Egypt had accepted U.N. Security Council resolution 342 and the Palestinians followed suit.

Criticising those who he said are trying to distort history and those who opposed the peace treaty with Israel, the King said: "Some voices were heard saying that Jordan will be swallowed up by Israel economically, but now after three years, I ask you did anything of this sort happen? Thank God everything is going the right way, our international borders are recognised for the first time and encroachment on our territory has stopped."

Referring to conditions set by political groups for participating in the elections he said "if the question of peace with Israel is one condition, I say that the peace treaty was approved by both houses of parliament and backed by the people of Jordan and we hope it will serve as a step along the way towards the comprehensive peace we aspire to."

"As to the one-person, one-vote election system, it was endorsed by Parliament and it is not a temporary law," added the King.

Stressing the need for the people to vote in the coming elections, the King said, "We need to have the votes of all people. We want

what is right for all to take their decision and to help establish justice and help in bringing about prosperity and stability and progress."

He said that "the one-person, one-vote system is the best that can suit us under the present circumstances and people who accept this system are welcome to vote, but those who are not convinced, are free in their own decisions. But we hope that people will examine their stand and take the right decision and we hope that the political parties will reassess their own position and realise their own size."

He said "we have achieved a great deal for this country but we aspire to achieve a great deal more and we implore God to help us pursue our march following in the footsteps of our fathers and grandfathers and on the right course of construction so that we can be of help to all Jordanians to enjoy stability, security and peace and to build on our achievements and succeed in their endeavours."

King Hussein referred to the citizens of Ma'an as his brothers and kinsmen with whom he said he had toiled and confronted challenges and difficulties and tackled problems as a united front.

"I consider, all Jordanians like sons, brothers and sisters, and all who had joined our march have been treated in the manner they deserve, but those who chose to differ with us, we waited for them to return to our ranks to join the rest of the Jordanian family in the construction process," added King Hussein.

He said that "Jordanians have lived together like members of a family with our relations characterised with affection, perseverance and patience and I have always considered Jordanian citizens as my own responsibility."

King Hussein reaffirmed his absolute confidence in the Jordanian people and greeted the citizens of Ma'an, the city which he said had served as the initial stage in Jordan's modern history.

Later, King Hussein visited the palace of the late King Abdullah Ibn Al Hussein, founder of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, where he inspected restoration works and inaugurated the national museum housing the late King Abdullah's personal effects and pictures reflecting the establishment of Jordan and its evolution.

The King also visited the Ma'an branch of Muta University and inaugurated the faculty of science and arts. The King was briefed on its activities and programmes by the University President Eid Dahiyat.

King Hussein also inaugurated Princess Basma's new gynecology, maternity and children ward at Ma'an hospital.

Attending the rally were Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, Royal Court Chief Awn Khasawneh, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ben Zeid, the King's advisor for Tribal Affairs Hmaid Al Fayez, several Cabinet ministers, deputies from the Ma'an Governorate and former ministers.

## China in the slow lane on Internet super-highway

By Richard Ingham  
Agence France-Presse

HONG KONG — Its neighbours are racing ahead into cyberspace, laying plans to use the Internet for home shopping, banking and stock transactions, harnessing its powers for education and home entertainment. Left in their wake is China, the supposed super-economy of the next century.

Hobbled by poor infrastructure and a range of restrictions on business and information, China lags pitifully in the race to exploit the technical miracles of the net, business sources say.

Internet corporations interviewed at a trade fair here say providers of computer equipment, software and services eye China and its massive population as potentially the net's juiciest market.

But the frustration lies in that word, "potentially".

"China is not as big as we had hoped," said Niu Bai of Shiva Corp. of Massachusetts, which makes concentrators, a device that helps efficient handling of data for the huge computers that make up the Internet.

"It's going to be huge, but not yet," he said.

Japan is still the largest market in Asia, and Taiwan, (South) Korea, Hong Kong and Singapore are great. We are forming partnerships and working hard on the China market, but China still represents less than five per cent of our Asian turnover.

Like others at the Hong Kong/China Internet World '97, which ended recently, he cited fundamental difficulties in China, starting with the lack of ISDN lines and

exchanges — the trunk network that lets data move quickly and efficiently around the country.

Then there is the fact that China, for all its great size, remains a tiny market.

In a population of 1.3 billion, sales of personal computers were just two million in 1996, according to estimates made in January by China's Electronics Ministry, which predicted growth of at least 60 per cent in 1997.

Internet subscribers numbered around 150,000 at the end of last year, but could rise to 250,000 by the end of 1997. Some analysts say this figure does not reflect the number of Internet users, which they say is many times higher.

In 1996, China had only 60.58 million telephone users, although the goal is to enable 10 per cent of the total number of households — and all those in urban centres — to have a phone by the turn of the century, through an investment programme worth \$12 billion each year.

This development may sound impressive, but it is risible compared with Singapore, where nearly 10 per cent of the population already uses the Internet; in Hong Kong, where it is eight per cent; or in Taiwan, China's rival, where penetration is expected to reach 14 per cent by 2000.

Then there are the problems of actually doing Internet business in China for service providers. China is irksome in that very few people have a credit card, a prerequisite for ordering goods over the net.

And those wanting to sell computers and Inter-

net equipment to China complain the government has a monopolistic and meddling attitude that discourages newcomers.

"You have to spend lots of money to develop the market," says Robinson Hsu of Versant Communications Inc. of California. "Maybe after five or 10 years you can get some return."

On the other hand, the government's attempt to restrict information flows in China is widely seen as less of a problem.

The Communist authorities control all the "gateways" through which Internet data passes in and out of the country and try to weed out access to foreign news sites, sites run by China's pro-democracy diaspora and "spiritual pollution" such as pornography.

But the curbs have so far had limited success, according to an Internet user in Beijing.

Stephen Cui, vice president for Asia for Cyber-express, a New Jersey-based corporation that sells commercial data and entertainment to Internet subscribers, is optimistic.

The restrictions will either be removed or become redundant, he said.

"In two years, there will be no controls. The Communist government knows that. It can change very quickly. No one imagined that 10 years ago, China would be like it is today," he says.

Agrees Bai: "The (censorship) policy can change. People can become liberal. It's a global trend. China has opened to the world, you can't just shut it down."

## Iranian president submits relatively moderate cabinet

(Continued from page 1)

responsible for rebuilding Iran's power network following the devastating 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war.

Habibollah Bitaraf, a former governor general of Yazd province and deputy energy minister, was named to replace Mr. Zanganeh as energy minister.

Speaker of Parliament Ali Akbar Nateq-Nouri, a conservative hardliner who was defeated by moderate cleric Khatami in the May 23 presidential vote, said the legislature would vote on the new president's nominees on August 19.

While no woman was named to the cabinet, Masoumeh Ebtekar, a 36-year-old doctor and university professor, is expected to be

named to the post of vice president in charge of environmental affairs, a job which does not require parliamentary approval.

She would be Iran's first female vice president since the Islamic revolution of 1979. The list of vice presidents is to be released at a later date.

The cabinet nominees have been the subject of open squabbling between left- and right-wing factions as Mr. Khatami, a former culture minister, tries to get his cabinet through parliament, still reeling from the upset loss of his candidate in the presidential election.

The cabinet proposed by Mr. Khatami Tuesday retained several members of the outgoing government

of Mr. Rafsanjani, who stepped down as president after serving the maximum two four-year terms permitted under the constitution.

Ismail Shushitari was retained as justice minister, Issa Kalantari as agriculture minister and Hussein Kamali, a political science graduate of Tehran University, as labor minister.

The most telling sign of the compromise with the conservatives was the choice of Deputy Qorbani Dorri Najafabadi as Intelligence Minister.

Several newspapers said Mr. Khatami had to drop his first choice for the job, Mohammad Mussavi-Khoeni, a radical and former spokesman of the hostage-takers at the U.S. embassy in Tehran, because

of heavy conservative pressure.

Mr. Najafabadi replaces Ali Fallahian, who was implicated by a Berlin court in the murders of four Kurdish dissidents in the German city in 1992, a case which has soured Iran's relations with the European Union.

Ataollah Mohajerani, a moderate who has served as vice president in charge of legal and parliamentary affairs since 1989, was named to head the powerful ministry of culture and Islamic guidance.

A former cultural attaché to Pakistan, Mr. Mohajerani served as deputy prime minister for legal and parliamentary affairs from 1985 to 1989. He has headed the "committee for sup-

porting the Islamic revolution of Palestine" since 1990.

Tehran Deputy Abdullah Nouri, a former interior minister, was named once again to head the interior ministry, which oversees police and internal security forces, in another bow to right-wingers.

Gholam Reza Shafei, who served as minister of cooperatives under Mr. Rafsanjani and is a former deputy minister of mines and metals, was appointed minister of industries in the new government.

Mohammad Reza Aref, holder of a doctorate from Stanford University in the U.S. who has headed Tehran University since 1984, was named minister of communications.

## U.S. envoy criticises economic punishment of West Bank, Gaza

(Continued from page 1)

Palestinians by Israel amounted to \$40 million, about 60 per cent of the Palestinian National Authority's (PNA) monthly income.

"The situation is very dangerous, and we are on the verge of collapse. We have no money," said Mr. Alawneh, adding that the self-rule government had to borrow from banks to pay 80,000 employees.

David Bar-Illan, a top aide to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, said Israel had tried for years "to avoid anything that may be constructed as sanctions, but terrorism continued and became worse than ever."

He said Israel refused to hand over the tax money, which he estimated at \$22 million, because it was used to fund the Palestinian police, and some senior

police had been involved in planning attacks on Israel.

"We feel that it is a little ridiculous to hand over money to the very same police force that is engaged in terrorism," said Mr. Bar-Illan.

Israel has demanded the trial of Palestinian police commissioner Ghazi Jabali after claiming he was involved in sending a squad of police to ambush Israelis in the West Bank.

There were signs of progress in Mr. Ross' efforts to restore security cooperation between Israel and the Palestinians, which has been suspended since March when Israel started a Jewish settlement Arab east Jerusalem.

Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Mordechai indicated Israel would ease the travel ban and economic sanctions if the Palestinians cracked down on militants.

Despite reports that Mr. Arafat had agreed to renewed security cooperation, Mr. Bar-Illan said there had been no progress yet on improving the security situation.

"What Ross did was a very good first step. The question is whether it will be followed up by other steps. If not, it is meaningless," Mr. Bar-Illan told the Associated Press.

Israel demanded the arrest of 230 Palestinian militants, the disarming of political factions and the uprooting of the infrastructure of Hamas. U.S. sources said Mr. Ross warned Mr. Arafat about the need to confiscate weapons and arrest anyone who threaten to carry out terror attacks. But the American view of what needed to be done was reportedly less drastic than Israel's.

Palestinian officials indicated it was prema-

ture to say whether Mr. Ross would be able to break the impasse and resume peace talks.

"It's too early to say whether it is a successful shuttle or not," said Saeb Erekat, the chief Palestinian negotiator. "[Mr. Ross] came to deal with security issues. And we told him that the Palestinian security as important as Israeli security."

His remarks indicated that the gap between the two sides was still wide, and that the Palestinians wanted to see Mr. Ross address political issues such as Jewish settlement building, which they view as the cause of the current crisis.

"We told him you cannot deal with one issue and ignore the other issues," Mr. Erekat said on the Voice of Palestine.

## Hamas says military wing responsible for bombing

(Continued from page 1)

Oslo peace agreement, which the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) has signed with Israel.

"We will fight the Oslo agreement with political and democratic means and without entering into conflict with the Palestinian Authority, which is a red line that we will not cross," Mr. Goshch said.

He added that his group was ready to enter into dialogue with the PNA, but emphasised that the PNA has to adopt several conditions before the talks with Hamas start, such as releasing the group's detainees from PNA jails and putting an end to security coordination with Israel.

The Hamas spokesman also said that his group was ready to take part in municipal elections in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip "if certain requirements are met to ensure honest and fair polls" for more than three million Palestinians living there.

He called upon Palestinian President Yasser Arafat not to "succumb" to Israeli and American pressure by cracking down against Hamas activists in the Palestinian territories "which is aimed at striking at (Palestinian) national unity."

Mr. Goshch said that during the meeting between President Arafat and Hamas politburo member Musa Abu Marzook, which took

place last week, was merely "a social encounter" and denied that the two discussed the Hamas-PNA relationship nor the Jerusalem blasts.

He added that President Arafat's meeting with Mr. Abu Marzook, which lasted for one hour, was to "congratulate Mr. Abu Marzook on his release from a U.S. jail."

Mr. Abu Marzook was discharged last May from a New York jail after being accused of "terrorist" activities.

In reports published Tuesday, Mr. Abu Marzook called upon the Palestinians to turn the lives of Jewish settlers into hell.

"Those spiteful settlers in Hebron and other cities of

our occupied Palestinian lands are receiving full support and encouragement from this Israeli government and previous governments," Mr. Abu Marzook told the Islamic magazine Al Islah in the United Arab Emirates.

"We call on our people in Palestine to chase these herds of settlers and turn their lives into intolerable hell," he said.

"We call on all Palestinian people, Muslims and Christians, to join hands in responding to the Zionist crimes, which will be stopped only by decisive action," the AFP quoted Mr. Abu Marzook as saying to the UAE-based magazine.

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# Jordan, Pakistan sign cooperation protocol

By Ghalia Alul  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan and Pakistan Tuesday signed a protocol of cooperation with the aim of strengthening their economic ties and improving the volume of trade between them, which has been in favour of Jordan.

Jordan's exports to Pakistan reached about \$19 million in 1996, while imports from Pakistan were about \$3.5 million during the same period.

"These trade statistics are indicative of the fact that more efforts are required on both sides to foster the two-way trade which at present is quite negligible," President of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FCCI) Senator Ilyas Bilour told a meeting between Jordanian and Pakistani businesspersons on Tuesday.

Amman Chamber of Industry (ACI) Chairman Khalidoun Abu Hassan said that since both countries are members of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) and of the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry, they can have a "wide open channel for economic

cooperation and possibilities of developing bilateral integrated industrial, financial and other economic projects."

Mr. Abu Hassan highlighted Jordan's investment climate saying that the country has just entered the Asian market, "through some strategic industries, including the production of fertilisers and industrial assets."

"We in Jordan are proud to accommodate well-advanced pharmaceuticals, veterinary, agricultural and pesticide industries. It is highly gainful that we establish strong relations in these strategic and essentially important industrial fields, not forgetting possibilities of other industries," he said.

Mr. Abu Hassan also stressed the importance of exploring the exchange of experience in the development of small and medium-size enterprises and feeder and auxiliary industries which, he said, are essential and necessary for finished goods.

Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce Chairman Haidar Murad pointed out that Jordan could benefit from the Pakistani experience in the textile industry, being one of

Pakistan's biggest exports. The Pakistani official underlined his country's investment climate saying that Islamabad is currently pursuing the policies of economic liberalisation, deregulation and privatisation.

Senator Bilour added that customs duty on finished and semi-finished goods and components was brought down to 45 per cent. Corporate tax for individuals and companies was also reduced, he said.

Senator Bilour reviewed the possibilities of cooperation between both countries saying that a textile mill can be set up in Jordan based on material supplied from Pakistan. Similarly, he added, a phosphate fertiliser plant can be established in Pakistan using Jordanian phosphate.

Senator Bilour noted that a joint venture agreement between Fauji Fertiliser Company of Pakistan and the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company was signed in April last year to set up a fertiliser factory in Pakistan producing 1000 tonnes of urea per day.

"I'm convinced that there is scope to expand our cooperation in the fields of trade, industrial joint ventures focusing on develop-

ment of commissioning new fertiliser plants in Jordan, supply of light and heavy engineering goods and participation of Pakistani investors in Jordanian Dead Sea industries," he said.

Under the agreement, Jordan and Pakistan will increase efficiency of their assistance to enterprises, organisations and companies in their countries in promoting and developing all kinds of foreign economic activities, including development of the tourist relations.

Both countries will also exchange delegations of specialists by holding conferences and other events to educate business circles on economy and export capacities.

According to the agreement, both sides will promote small and medium-scale businesses, identify trade partners and provide each other with local marketing services.

The agreement stipulates that ACI may hold annual meetings alternatively in Karachi and Amman and prepare specific plans for joint events.

In his address to the meeting, Senator Bilour invited interested Jordanian businesspersons to

attend the Fourth Private Sector Meeting to take place in Karachi from Oct. 27-29.

He said the meeting aims at promoting trade and joint venture investments among Islamic countries and increasing the present level of inter-Islamic trade.

Later in the day, the Pakistani delegation met with Ministry of Planning Secretary General Nabil Ammari and Ministry of Industry and Trade Secretary General Mohammad Halaqi, and discussed means to enhance economic and trade cooperation between both countries.

Dr. Halaqi said both countries are currently formulating a bilateral agreement to be signed later this year. He added that Jordan and Pakistan are discussing plans to increase the number of flights between them.

REUTERS

REUTERS

## The Business of Information

Major Currencies & Cross Rates Prices as at 12/08/97 20:21

Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CAD	AUD	HKD	SGD
US Dollar	1.0000	1.8675	0.6339	1.5288	116.22	1.3930	1.8210	2.1025	6.2908
DE Mark	0.5355	1.0000	0.3392	0.8185	62.25	0.7457	0.9748	1.1259	3.3685
GB Sterling	1.5775	2.9450	1.0000	2.4083	163.26	2.1975	2.8723	3.3167	9.9233
CH Franc	0.6541	1.2211	0.4144	1.0000	76.02	0.9109	1.1907	1.3748	4.1153
JP Yen	0.0085	0.0160	0.0039	0.0063	1.0000	0.0085	0.0115	0.0133	0.0400
CA Dollar	0.7179	1.3393	0.4547	1.0967	1.20	1.0000	1.3063	1.5087	4.5125
IT Lira	0.0005	0.0010	0.0003	0.0005	156.91	0.0005	0.0007	0.0008	0.0025
NL Guilder	0.0058	0.0116	0.0037	0.0093	55.24	0.0058	0.0077	0.0091	0.0270
FR Franc	0.1590	0.3180	0.1007	0.2517	16.45	0.2213	0.3341	0.3341	1.0000

Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CAD	AUD	HKD	SGD
US Dollar	1.0000	1.8675	0.6339	1.5288	116.22	1.3930	1.8210	2.1025	6.2908
Jordan Dinar	1.4124	2.6666	0.1888	0.4523	5.1410	0.4312	0.5473	0.6173	1.7910
Saudi Riyal	0.2666	0.5000	0.1000	0.2500	2.5000	0.2000	0.2500	0.2500	0.7500
Bahrain Dinar	2.65	5.0000	0.9483	2.3708	23.708	1.9750	2.4688	2.8125	8.4375
Qatar Dinar	0.2747	0.5145	0.1034	0.2585	2.585	0.2069	0.2639	0.2993	0.8979
Kuwait Dinar	3.2755	6.1450	1.2349	3.0872	30.872	2.5000	3.1250	3.5938	10.7813
Emirates Dinar	0.2723	0.5128	0.1027	0.2571	2.571	0.2081	0.2651	0.2996	0.8988
Lebanese/1000	0.65	1.22	0.31	0.77	7.70	0.62	0.79	0.91	2.73
Egyptian	0.2948	0.5596	0.1007	0.2517	16.45	0.2213	0.3341	0.3341	1.0000

Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CAD	AUD	HKD	SGD
US Dollar	1.0000	1.8675	0.6339	1.5288	116.22	1.3930	1.8210	2.1025	6.2908
SA Riyal	0.2666	0.5000	0.1000	0.2500	2.5000	0.2000	0.2500	0.2500	0.7500
AE Dirham	0.2723	0.5128	0.1027	0.2571	2.571	0.2081	0.2651	0.2996	0.8988
KW Dinar	3.2755	6.1450	1.2349	3.0872	30.872	2.5000	3.1250	3.5938	10.7813
BH Dinar	0.3770	0.7050	0.1385	0.3462	3.462	0.2854	0.3568	0.4054	1.2162
CY Pound	1.8176	3.3938	1.1516	2.7783	27.783	2.2100	2.7625	3.1250	9.3750

Period	1 Month	3 Months	6 Months	12 Months
USD	5.50	5.52	5.75	6.00
GBP	7.00	7.13	7.22	7.38
JPY	0.28	0.43	0.44	0.53
DEM	3.06	3.12	3.25	3.34
FRF	3.19	3.30	3.43	3.52
CHF	1.12	1.18	1.30	1.43
ITL	6.78	6.81	6.72	6.60

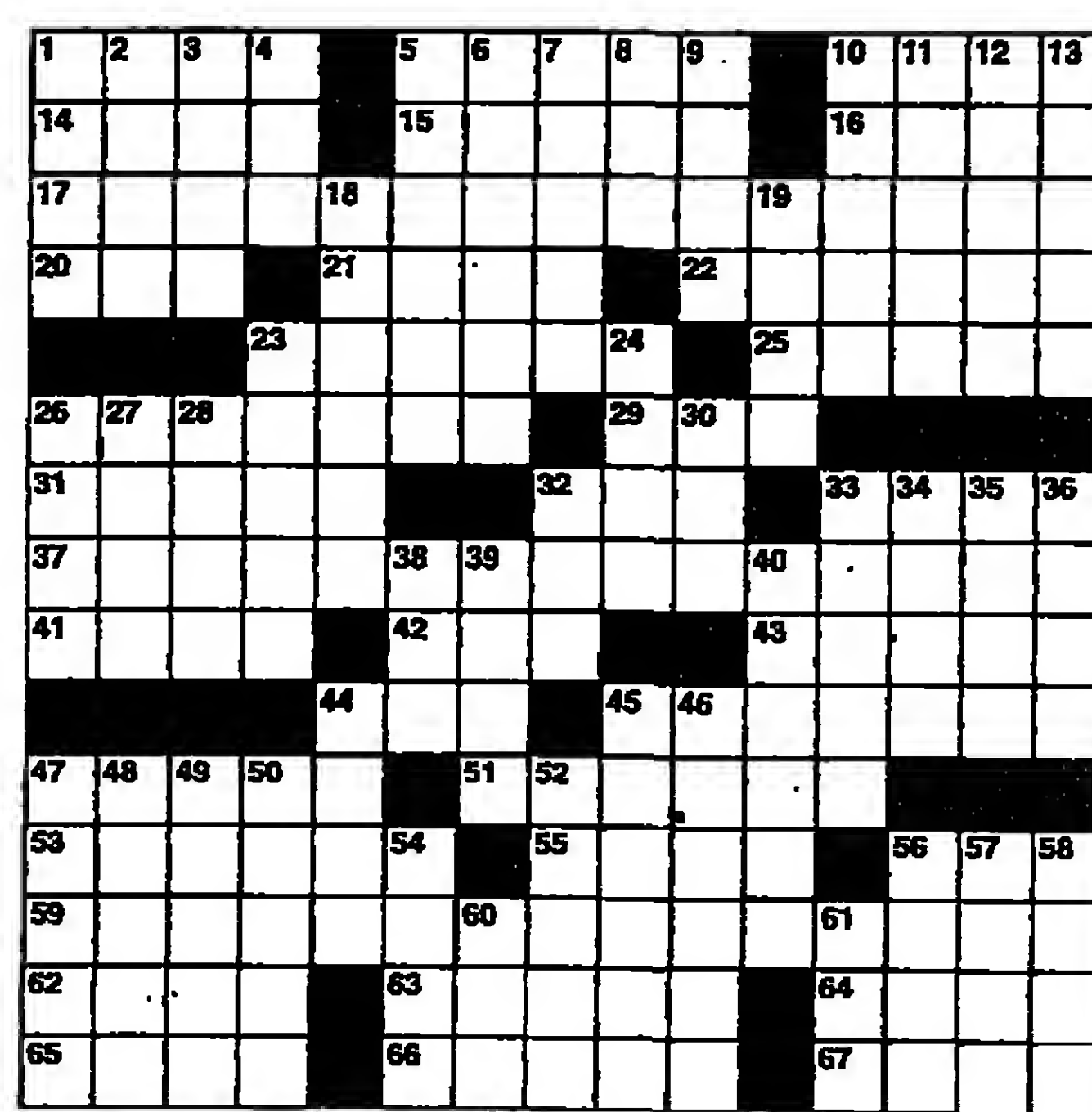
## THE Daily Crossword

### ACROSS

- Jargon
- Moved as if startled
- Cubs or Mets
- Toward shelter
- Vermicelli
- Paris girl
- Sociable guy
- Hanker
- Find out
- Dash
- Remove impurities
- Soothes
- Spread false charges against
- Ancient
- Cygnets and cob
- Garden tool
- Utah's lily
- Celebrate
- Agile
- Came out on top
- Suffered
- Moved up and down
- Football players
- Kind of drum
- Positions
- Decorates
- Comic Johnson
- Large snake
- Relax
- Musical James
- Janeiro
- Paradise
- Shortly
- Fencing swords
- Headland

### DOWN

- Shrewd
- Softening agent
- City light
- Sen. Kennedy
- Pitches
- Hook-shaped
- Rhone feeder
- Sentence ender
- Morse code dashes
- firma
- Island, NY
- Skirt style
- Runs into
- Craving
- Copied
- Like a marsh
- Cheer
- Vipers
- Trade
- Poker hand
- the Lion
- 32 Layer
- Tizzies
- Mr. Gardner
- Late Actor, Will
- Advantage
- Couple
- Fireplace shelves
- Stray
- German city
- Procession
- Loosens
- Farm bundles
- "Joy"
- Theirs — reason why (Tennyson)
- Sound of distress
- Nevada resort
- Parched
- Be an omen
- Has debts
- Jillian and Sothorn
- Small drink
- Cozy room



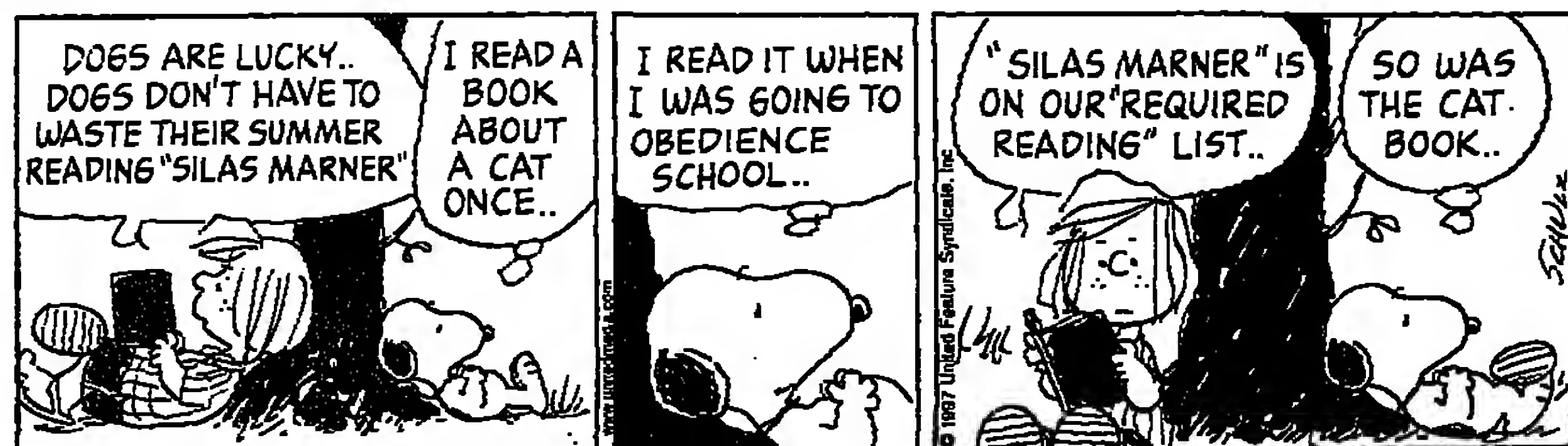
by Harold B. Counts

### Puzzle solved:

TABS	LAMA	AMAS
UGLI	LEMON	LACE
FLAMBOYANT	INRE	TEMPEST
STE	LEER	NEA
PAL	TONI	TRA
CHE	SEDITIOUS	
SHORTEN	ABSORBS	
SATISFIES	NYE	
TNT	ATTU	FEE
ARR	RAIL	ASA
ENMASSE	INSERTS	
READ	GLADIATORS	
MALI	TILES	ASIA
APEX	SAPS	TEAM

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## Peanuts



## Andy Capp



## Mutt'n'Jeff



## HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 13, 1997

By Thomas S. Pierson,  
Astrologer, Carroll  
Higher Foundation

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) Attempt to the desires of your loved ones today and thereby you can maintain harmony. Postpone confrontations with outsiders, save up your energy, get lots of rest this evening so that you can handle any difficulties.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20) Keep impulses at bay concerning a personal wish, the outlook for fulfillment is more favourable. Be especially careful driving on the highway later this evening and thereby you can handle any difficulties.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) Study money matters well today so that another doesn't get what rightfully belong to you. Keep money reserved, you may need it in lean times and you don't want to be short of funds when it counts.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) Prepare for a hectic day today and don't overreact if you do not receive an expected honour. Treat all close friends equally and thereby you can maintain the harmony which will exist. Later this evening will be good for going out on the town.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) Be careful not to take out your anger on an innocent person or you could regret your actions. Attend to a friend who has worst difficulties. Make sure your car runs smoothly so that get to where you are going.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) Try not to expend energy on moody persons today or a close tie who is in a bad mood, keep your strength. Deal with cheerful outsiders who are in a good mood and thereby you can have a good time with them.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) Move carefully in business activities today to keep your money and prestige. Pay pressing bills, improve your credit. Later this evening will be a good time to meet with knowledgeable people and seek their advice.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) Complete an old project before starting a new one. Be generous and helpful toward a newcomer who need any assistance you can provide. Stay quiet, restore energy tonight thereby you can plan for hectic times ahead.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) Re-evaluate business and personal difficulties at this time. Your mate may be in a belligerent mood, however remain calm. Poise and stamina are important today, so make every effort to maintain your composure.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) You should not let amazement at an unusual situation get the better of you. Emphasis on action is essential. Later this evening will be good to go out to recreational activities with close friends.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) Tensions among fellow associates come to a boil today, reschedule your career activities accordingly. In general, de-emphasise tasks which have come along. Later tonight is a good time to relax with your loved ones.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) Although you have hopes for a pleasant time today with special friends, it could be spoiled, so be prepared for changes in your plans. A creative fellow associate might behave counter-productive, so be prepared for anything.

Birthstone of August: Peridot — Golden Quartz

## Public sha

By Samir Gh  
Jordan Times Staff

Since last month have been preparing and reports as of June 30 to the Amman Financial

the AFM has received ne which were made availabl summarized as shown below:

Arab Chemical Detergents sales posted by the compa year announced to JD4.5 million in operative JD0.9 million profit down further to JD0.5 million and ger

company's fixed assets at JD1.1 million. Inventorin JD1.1 million. JD1.8 mill JD0.9 million.

The General Investor JD0.9 million in total sale

Ministry detec uses of tax evas

PROVIDING tax many attempts of tax Suleiman Hafez said the detected between for

the minister confirmed that lower the maximum cel 30 percent to 30. He said the more reduced the more the sales tax. Noting the new budget is to colle sales tax, the minis as to be the first step towa added tax.

He later indicated that the implement this concept stated that the ministry a financial resource and capital expenditure an the decreasing needy p leading on the debt bur that foreign debt at 1 billion which he said, is a good time to meet with knowledgeable people and seek their advice.



# Business & Finance

Jordan Times, Wednesday, August 13, 1997 9

## Public shareholding companies begin issuing mid-year financial results

By Samir Ghawi  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

**AMMAN** — Since last month, public shareholding companies have been preparing their financial statements and reports as of June 30, 1997 and submitting them to the Amman Financial Market (AFM) as required by the law.

So far, the AFM has received nearly 25 financial statements which were made available to the Jordan Times and summarised as shown below:

### The Arab Chemical Detergents Industries Company

Total sales posted by the company during the first half of this year amounted to JD4.5 million. Taking into account JD3.6 million in operational costs, the company's gross profit stood at JD0.9 million. However, the net profit went down further to JD0.55 million when administrative, selling and general expenses were deducted.

The company's fixed assets at the end of June 1997 totalled JD1.1 million. Inventories of goods and raw materials amounted to JD1.8 million as current liabilities were nearly JD2 million.

### The General Investment Company

Of JD2.9 million in total sales, the company paid

around JD1 million in sales tax and generated a JD1.1 million gross profit. This profit declined to JD950,000 after subtracting various expenses.

The company's current assets at the end of the first half of this year stood at JD3.2 million of which JD1.2 million were inventories, JD1.1 million receivable and JD0.9 million in cash.

Investments in subsidiaries and shares of other companies amounted to JD2.6 million in addition to fixed assets valued at JD4.9 million.

Current liabilities totalled JD0.8 million and shareholders' equity closed the first half period at about JD10 million.

### The Jordan Rockwool Industries Company

The company emerged from the JD51,273 loss posted during the first half of last year to post a small JD5,515 profit on sales amounting to JD728,962 compared to JD544,133 of sales in the first half of 1996.

Although current assets declined slightly from JD2.4 million to JD2.3 million, the company had around JD650,000 in cash liquidity in addition to inventories amounting to JD760,000. Total receivables amounted to JD800,000.

Current liabilities and shareholders' equity were JD408,467 (JD529,930 in June 96) and JD3.4 million (JD3.5 million).

### The Universal Chemical Industries Company

Of the JD2.1 million in total sales, the company's exports amounted to JD1.4 million, but the amount was below the JD3.7 million in total sales posted during the first half of last year.

After taking into account production costs and various other expenses, gross profit and net profit stood at JD293,801 (JD425,466 in 1996) and JD119,128 (JD239,379) respectively.

Current assets totalled JD3.0 million of which JD1.7 million were receivables and JD0.8 million the value of goods, raw materials and spare parts. Current assets at the end of June 1996 stood at JD2.8 million.

The company's fixed assets were valued at JD721,557. Payables and shareholders' equity amounted to JD0.76 million and JD2.9 million respectively.

### The Arab Press Works Company

The company posted a small JD5,689 operational loss as costs amounted to JD326,027 whereas earnings were JD320,338. However, with the addition of administrative, selling and general expenses in addition to depreciation, the loss increased to JD148,018 during the first half of this year.

The company's net fixed assets were valued at JD5.3 million. Current assets totalled JD0.9 million of which JD0.55 million were receivables.

On the liability side, the company carried a JD2 million short-term loan. As to the shareholders' equity, the amount stood at JD2.7 million although the company has a JD4.0 million registered capital of which only JD2.8 million is fully paid.

### The Unified Company for Organising Land Transport

The main assets of the company were concentrated in cash, receivables and investments as they totalled JD4.8 million, JD1 million and JD1.1 million respectively.

In addition the company's balance sheet includes JD0.7 million of fixed assets and about JD0.5 million of payments on work in progress.

The company repaid JD1 million of bank loans that showed in the 1996 balance sheet but as of June 30, 1997 the company's current liabilities included payables of around JD1.2 million. Shareholders' equity totalled about JD7.0 million.

The profit and loss statement showed net profit at JD0.69 million, a few thousand dinars more than the net profit posted in mid-year 1996.

Contributing to the net profit were JD0.4 million from operation, JD0.3 million from bank interest and returns on investments. During the first half of 1996, operational profit amounted to JD0.5 million and income from interest and other investment returns were JD0.2 million.

(To be continued tomorrow)

## Daily Beat

A review of news from the Arabic press

### Ministry detects four cases of tax evasion daily

**\*\* DESPITE PROVIDING** tax incentives, there are still many attempts of tax evasion, Finance Minister Suleiman Hafez said in a lecture this week. "We detect between four to five cases of tax evasion at the ministry each day," he asserted.

The minister confirmed that the government will lower the maximum ceiling of customs duties from 40 per cent to 30 per cent from the beginning of 1998. He said that as customs duties are reduced the more emphasis will be given to the sales tax. Noting that the estimate in the 1997 budget is to collect at least JD372 million in sales tax, the minister described the sales tax as the first step towards applying the value added tax.

Mr. Hafez indicated that the ministry has a plan to implement this concept of tax on stages. He stressed that the ministry will continue to rely on local financial resources to cover recurrent and capital expenditure and to provide subsidies to the deserving needy people.

Speaking on the debt burden, Mr. Hafez revealed that foreign debt at present stands at \$6.7 billion which, he said, is still high. "It is annoying and needs great effort," he added noting that in addition to the debt burden, Jordan suffers from limited resources and high unemployment.

He indicated that as a result of the high credibility of the economic adjustment programme being pursued, the Kingdom has become eligible to seek commercial borrowing from world financial centres. "Such a borrowing has not been possible since 1989 when the country did not obtain outside loans," the minister said.

"The International Monetary Fund has imposed on Jordan conditions not to take any loans that do not have a minimum 35 per cent grants so as to repay 65 per cent of the total loan," Mr. Hafez told his audience.

Other topics mentioned by the minister were:

- The decision of raise water charges will be implemented from Oct. 1 but the majority of the people will not be affected by the higher cost.
- The budget deficit will be reduced to 3.1 per cent of the gross domestic product this year.
- The German government will cancel DM40 million of Jordanian debt this year.
- The allocations for administrative development in the public sector will be reconsidered in this year's budget.
- There will be independent budgets for the governorates from this year. The budgets will include recurrent and capital spending and the governor and the executive council will be considered as a mini-government in the governorate (Al Aswaq).

### JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

MYNEE  
WULAF  
LUDSON  
WOTOWK

Print answer here: THE

(Answers Monday)

Yesterday's Jumbles: ANNUL PLUSH LUNACY JACKET

Answer: Where the soldier caught forty winks - ON HIS "NAP" SACK

Flight 001, descend to 5000 feet, wind at 20 knots out of the southwest, visibility...

WHAT THE TOWER GIVES A PILOT BEFORE LANDING.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers Monday)

Yesterday's Jumbles: ANNUL PLUSH LUNACY JACKET

Answer: Where the soldier caught forty winks - ON HIS "NAP" SACK

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET													
HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - STOCK EXCHANGE													
TELEPHONE: 607171 / 607179													
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR TUESDAY 12/08/1997													
PAST 12 MONTHS HIGH	PAST 12 MONTHS LOW	COMPANY'S NAME	P / E	DIV.	NO. OF TRANS.	NO. OF SHARES	VALUE TRADED JD	OPEN PRICE	CLOSE PRICE	CHANGE			
298.000	219.000	ARAB BANK	11.5	1.37	2	340	100260	294.25	293.00	1.25			
N 2.340	1.680	JOR. NATIONAL BK.	8	0.00	21	8430	17307	2.05	2.05	-			
5.800	4.100	CHINO AMMAN BANK	11.3	2.75	1	5000	5450	5.45	5.45	-			
3.600	2.760	BANK OF JORDAN	6.4	0.00	2	4700	14335	3.35	3.05	-			
1.210	.880	MID. EAST INV. BK.	59.1	0.00	5	60250	37425	.94	.90	-.04			
2.480	2.150	INDUSTRIAL DEV. BK.	8.7	7.16	34	20850	48901	2.22	2.16	-.06			
5.200	4.500	TUE HOUSING BK.	14.3	4.04	3	1400	6726	4.84	4.80	-.04			
1.050	.760	JOR. CULP BANK	4.7	8.86	8	16440	12986	.75	.75	-			
3.870	3.450	ARAB JOR. INV. BK.	17.3	0.00	2	5000	18001	3.55	3.60	.05			
4.050	3.480	JOR. ISLAMIC BANK	15.8	3.09	8	1688	6589	3.85	3.88	.03			
1.760	1.110	UNION BK. SAV. INV.	P	0.00	1	1600	2048	1.28	1.28	-			
2.460	1.000	BEIT-AL-HAL (BEITNA)	.7	14.15	3	650	689	1.08	1.06	-.02			
BANK SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 216.19	CHNG: -0.38	91	102358	270746						
2.260	1.590	JOR. FRENCH INSUR.	4.6	12.20	4	850	1071	1.64	1.64	-			
INSURANCE SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 113.54	CHNG: 0.00	4	650	1071						
1.820	1.500	JOR. ELECTRIC PWR.	8.0	6.06	23	13786	22748	1.66	1.65	-.01			
1.540	1.320	IBRID ELECTRICITY	8.8	7.82	5	10200	14989	1.42	1.47	.05			
3.050	2.150	SHIPPING LINES	16.7	4.53	4	1500	4315	2.88	2.87	-.01			
1.550	.930	NATL. PORTFOLIO	9	0.00	24	30600	42258	1.39	1.39	-			
1.010	.820	REAL ESTATE INV.	12.6	0.00	11	6900	6195	.89	.91	.02			
.810	.480	JORDAN INTL. TRAD.	28.2	0.00	2	900	495	.55	.55	-			
1.890	1.150	MID. EAST HOTELS	20.1	0.00	21	22551	29677	1.26	1.32	.06			
3.720	2.890	ARAB INTL. INV. EDUC.	3.6	0.00	4	1650	5956	3.01	3.07	.06			
1.220	.930	ZARQA EDUCATION	9	0.00	7	14000	13860	.98	.99	.01			
2.230	1.630	UNITED CO.	8.6	8.08	32	18400	33479	1.76	1.81	.05			
1.010	.640	UNION LAND DEV.	1	0.00	1	150	101	.67	.67	-			
SERVICE SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 110.30	CHNG: +0.64	135	120659	173270						
4.450	3.220	JOR. CEMENT FACT.	26.9	2.76	37	10364	41260	3.97	3.99	.02			
4.140	2.750	JOR. PHOSPHATE MINES	11.0	2.53	2	3000	11880	3.96	3.96	-			
7.050	5.100	ARAB POTASH CO.	14.5	3.28	2	1500	1500	5.00	5.00	-			
10.520	9.000	JOR. PETROL REFINERY	9.7	8.08	24	4293	42916	9.98	10.01	.03			
3.200	1.650	INDUSTRIAL COMM. MGR.	9	0.00	3	974	1658	1.72	1.73	.01			
7.150	5.800	JOR. MORGENTHAU	5.5	1.39	1	100	590	5.90	5.90	-			
3.040	2.400	ARAB PHARM. MANF.	11.60	4.3	20	4986	20137	4.05	4.06	.01			
5.650	3.800	DAR ALDASTA DV. INV.	13.0	4.72	4	40000	212000	5.30	5.30	-			
.960	.450	LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	7.7	0.00	8	11950	5497	.46	.46	-			
N 4.110	1.000	ARAB PAPER CO. IND.	32.4	0.00	13	20214	12194	1.03	1.06	.03			
1.520	.810	NATIONAL STEEL IND.	9	0.00	5	2150	1710	.81	.80	-.01			
1.270	.510	INTERMED. PETRO. CHEM.	9	0.00	31	22700	12818	.55	.57	.02			
.980	.530	JOR. ROCKWOLD INDUS.	9	0.00	13	10300	7077	.66	.69	.03			
N 3.000	2.130	NATL. CHEM. & PETRO. CHEM.	36.6	0.00	500	1140	233	2.28	2.28	-			
.920	.530	JOR. SULPHO-CHEM.	9	0.00	4	5250	3308	.60	.63	.03			
1.670	1.120	ARAB PHARM. CHEM.	17.5	5.11	3	750	1025	1.34	1.37	.03			
2.000	1.080	UNIV. MOON INDUS.	9	0.00	19	221	9081	1.00	1.24	.04			
.950	.500	JOR. INDUS. RESEARCH	13.9	9.00	22	9800	10150	1.03	1.03	-			
1.620	1.300	NATL. CHLORINE	15.0	4.40	23	10300	16379	1.56	1.59	.03			
1.070	.810	JOR. NEW CABLE CO.	13.8	0.00	23	12450	10488	.83	.84	.01			
1.340	1.090	EL. SAV. REPAIR WEAR	6.6	6.6	6	6000	1638	1.59	1.59	-			
1.330	1.080	INTL. TOBACCO	6.3	0.00	6	4150	4773	1.15	1.15	-			
1.240	.860	UNION CH. & VEG.	43.6	0.00	15	11900	11340	.95	.96	.01			
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 123.29	CHNG: -0.48	297	202497	472587						
GRAND TOTAL			INDEX: 165.78	CHNG: -0.36	527	426164	917673						
PARALLEL MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR TUESDAY 12/08/1997													
.630	.380	CENTRAL GEN. STORAGE	9	0.00	6	3500	1233	.36	.35	-.01			
N .620	.370	ARAB FIN. INVEST. CO.	9	0.00	12	13500	5935	.41	.41	-			
.950	.720	AL-SHARQ INV. CO.	P	0.00	6	20950	18227	.87	.87	-			
N .950	.610	AL-DAMLHAT 751	65.3	0.00	12	46400	19952	.68	.68	-			
.570	.280	JORDAN INTL. INV. FUND.	44.9	2	19	400	100	.28	.29	.01			
.750	.400	NATL. MILK. ENG. NAMICO	9	0.00	24	19150	9384	.49	.49	-			
.820	.710	JORDAN STEEL	34.8	6.49	22	33100	25384	.77	.77	.02			
.570	.380	INDUS. ENG.	9	0.00	7	10000	3300	.34	.34	-			
.860	.730	INDUS. CERAMIC	2	0.00	2	800	592	.73	.74	.01			
.820	.590	NATL. POULTRY	8	0.00	8	1153	3219	.64	.64	-			
N 1.800	.730	NAT. ALUMINIUM. 751	P	0.00	9	14600	7340	.75	.75	-			
1.020	.700	JORDAN INTL. FOOD FACT.	37.1	0.00	11	43000	48488	.77	.77	.01			
.860	.590	MID.EAST COMPLEX	7.9	15.63	1	250	160	.63	.64	.01			
GRAND TOTAL						132	230903	143017					
* : New 12 months low													
N : Listed during the past 12 months													
P : P/E ratio is 100 or more													
- : Negative P/E													



# Wihdat prepare for Arab Cup Winners' Cup

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

THE KINGDOM'S soccer champions Al Wihdat Wednesday arrive in Ismailia, Egypt, where the Arab Cup Winners' Cup opens Friday with eight teams taking part.

Al Wihdat are expected to have ended their week-long intense training camp in Alexandria where they also had two friendly matches in preparation for the August 15-25 event.

Al Wihdat's training camp at Alexandria's Naval Academy will cost about JD10,000 and comes amid the team's preparations to retain their Premier League title under new Iraqi coach Anwar Jassam who previously trained the Iraqi national teams.

Al Wihdat will be playing in Group 2 alongside Saudi Arabia's Al Shabab, Kuwait's Al Arabi and Algeria's Mawloudieh.

Group 1 includes Egypt's Al Ismaili, Qatar's Al Itihad.

Balata of Palestine and Libya's Al Ahli.

The draw has placed Al Wihdat in the relatively tougher group especially in their opening match against Al Shabab which is led by a Brazilian coach and includes top Saudi striker Saeed Oweiran.

However, the Saudi team will be missing professional players like Salem Dossari and Fahd Mohallal who are on duty with their national team preparing for the second round of the Asian World Cup qualifiers.

Al Ismaili and Al Ahli play the opening match Friday. Al Wihdat will play Al Shabab in their first match Saturday and will next play Algeria's Mawloudieh Aug. 19 and Kuwait's Al Arabi Aug. 21.

The semifinals will be played Aug. 23 and the final Aug. 25.

The referees for the tournament include Omar Bashtawi of Jordan, Hassan Ali of Egypt, Karim Dahou of Algeria, Mohammad Shilmi of Libya, Nabil Ayyad of Lebanon, Yousef Aqili of Saudi Arabia and Jassem Khouri of Qatar.

## Ravanelli says British press are out to get him

TURIN (AFP) — Middlesbrough's Fabrizio Ravanelli on Tuesday denied reports of a fight with teammate Curtis Fleming, and claimed he was the victim of a British press smear campaign.

Ravanelli said he feared that the tabloid claim, which was subsequently picked up by the press in Italy, could cost him his place in Cesare Maldini's national team.

"After the article published in the Sunday Mirror, and reported by the Italian press — who added different interpretations — my image has suffered a major blow," Ravanelli said.

"My fear is that I won't be picked for the national side again."

Cesare Maldini will certainly have read the newspapers and who knows what he will think of me now?"

"I'm already playing in a lower division, and now there's this story of a fight with a teammate."

Ravanelli broke his silence in a rare telephone interview with the Tuttosport newspaper based in Turin, the same city as his former club Juventus.

He went on: "It's not the first time that the British press have attacked me."

"I'll never forget how the 'News of the World'...

who I gave an exclusive interview to, completely twisted my comments when Italy won their world Cup qualifier at Wembley.

"It was all completely invented."

"And then there was the story of the unpaid bill for the portable telephone: It was all gratuitous spite. And that's why I decided to keep my mouth shut; not just to British journalists, but also to Italians."

As for the alleged punch-up with Fleming, Ravanelli insisted the exchange was a verbal one, and did not involve a fisticuffs.

"Let's be honest, who hasn't had words with a colleague at work?" asked the Italian. "Surely that's only normal?"

"Fleming and I traded insults, we told each other where to go, and things were a bit irritable on the pitch."

"But what I want to make clear is that I haven't changed my career: I'm a footballer by profession, not a boxer."

"I'll say it again, I've become the target for a certain part of the press. The 'Paparazzi' follow me around, for example, just to see if I say something to a young woman so that they can take a photo and rush off and show it to my wife."

"I'll never forget how the 'News of the World'...

"It's as if by scoring a lot of goals I've made people envious," he said. "I scored 31 in all last season and I want to score as many again this time."

As for the striker's late arrival for pre-season training, Ravanelli explained: "My teammates shouldn't get angry if I was late getting to Middlesbrough and missed the first part of training."

"I had the manager's permission, because of the negotiations that were underway for my transfer to Everton, which then fell through. But I didn't sit around and do nothing."

"I continued to work out on my own, and I was scrupulous about it: I'm a professional. By the time I returned to Middlesbrough, I'd done twice as much preparation as they had."

Despite Ravanelli's return to the English first division club, speculation remains rife that the striker will be moving in the weeks ahead, possibly to Germany, where Borussia Dortmund have indicated interest.

## Ali, Holyfield enter ring for charity

LOUISVILLE (AFP) — Former world heavyweight champion Muhammad Ali and reigning king Evander Holyfield will be among fighters climbing into the ring for charity here on September 20.

Ali and Holyfield will enter the ring against anyone for three friendly one-minute rounds with all donations going to charity. But the bidding starts at \$50,000.

The event will be here at Freedom Hall at the end of the week-long Ali Cup international amateur boxing challenge, the first international invitational boxing tournament, other than the Olympics, in a U.S. city.

Others entering the ring for charity include Jimmy Ellis, Jose Torres, Mark Breland, Ken Norton, Paul Gonzales, Ernie Turrell and David Reid.

"No one will get hurt, and everyone will have a lot of fun," said Gary Toney, president of USA Boxing. "Not too many people have a chance to step up in the ring with Muhammad Ali or Evander Holyfield and walk away smiling."

Defending champion Alex O'Brien of the United States beat wild card entry Ivan Ljubicic of Croatia 6-3, 6-1, and 16th seed Jan Siemierink of the Netherlands rallied to beat Uzbekistan's Oleg Ogorodov 7-6 (7/1), 4-6, 6-1.

India's Leander Paes often wins at doubles, but prefers singles.

He came close to winning at singles too when he faced American David Wheaton, but dropped his first round match 6-3 6-7(6-8) 6-3.

Just one break decided it in the third set, when the American broke his serve to lead 5-3. Before that, after five breaks of serve in the first set and none in the second, Paes fought back from 0-4 and match point down to claim the tiebreak

## American swimmers rally for five out of 8 golds

FUKUOKA (AP) — Jenny Thompson collected her 14th and 15th career Pan Pacific golds as American swimmers triumphed in five of eight events Monday, second day of the biennial championships.

Australia added three more to the five golds it won on Sunday, tying the U.S. team at eight gold medals overall.

Host Japan and Costa Rica each have won one gold.

Thompson, a five-time Olympic gold winner, edged 1996 Olympic gold medalist and world record-holder Le Jingyi of China by .04 seconds in the 100-metre freestyle.

Thompson, of Stanford, California, led throughout and won in 54.82 seconds, a meet record. Le finished in 54.86, well off the world mark of 54.01 she set in the World Championships in Rome in 1994.

Le, 22, is among only five swimmers China sent to Fukuoka. Team officials explained that China is in the midst of a training program for the World Championships in Australia next January.

"I felt good in the race and I was in the zone. I missed my turn, but my second 50 was the difference," said the 24-year-old Thompson, who is compet-

ing in her fifth Pan Pacific's.

"I was pretty excited to beat (Le). I know she's a world record-holder and always is really fast. I was excited to race her and get that high-quality competition."

About an hour after her 100-metre race, Thompson anchored the victorious American team in the 4 x 200-metre freestyle relay.

Lindsay Benko of Los Angeles and Ashley Whitney and Jamie Cail, both of Jacksonville, Florida, also swam in the quartet that edged Canada, winning in 8 minutes, 7.82 seconds. The Canadians, anchored by Joanne Malar, was timed in 8:08.85.

In the women's 100-metre breaststroke, Australian Samantha Riley spurted ahead of 1996 Olympic gold medalist and world record-holder Penny Heyns of South Africa.

Riley, bronze medalist at the Olympics in Atlanta, was never seriously threatened as she finished in 1:07.81, a meet record.

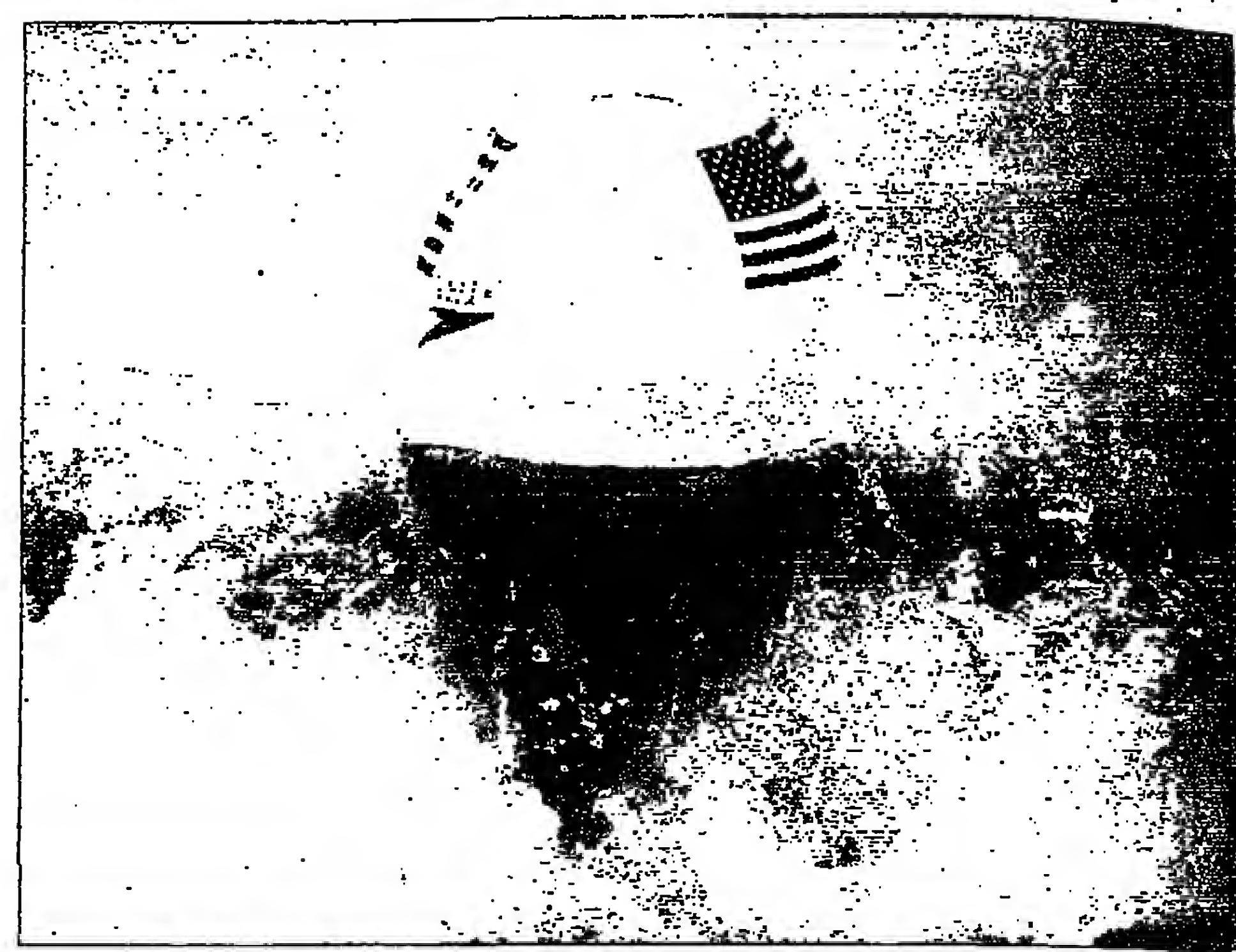
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Australian freestyle specialist Michael Klim edged American Neil Walker by a stroke in an upset victory in the 100-metre men's race, becoming another double gold medalist in Fukuoka.

Walker, of Austin Texas, was ahead most of the race but Klim pulled ahead in the final 15 metres and won in 49.46. Walker finished in 49.57.

The U.S. team in the 4 x 200-metre freestyle relay, anchored by Josh Davis of Austin Texas, also triumphed, beating Australia in 7:19.99, a meet record and the second fastest time ever for American relay teams.

Nearly 400 swimmers from 22 countries and regions are competing in the four-day meet.



Neil Walker of the United States races during the men's 100m butterfly heat in the Pan Pacific Swimming Championships in Fukuoka, southwestern Japan August 12. Walker clocked a new game record of 53.04 seconds, the best time in the heats, in advance to the final (Reuters photo)

### Pan Pacific Championships medal standings

Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
USA	13	12	13	38
Australia	9	5	4	18
Japan	2	1	1	4
Costa Rica	2	0	0	2
Canada	0	5	3	8
China	0	2	1	3
South Africa	0	1	0	1
New Zealand	0	0	3	3
Puerto Rico	0	0	1	1

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## Esmie withdraws from Canadian gold team

TORONTO (AFP) — Canada's most extrovert sprinter, Robert Esmie, is pulling out of his nation's world championship 4x100 metres sprint relay team.

In an interview published Tuesday in the Toronto Star, Esmie — whose trademark is to have the words "blast off" shaved on his head — claims the world champion and Olympic gold medal-winning relay team has lost its family atmosphere.

The paper noted that there has been a great deal of friction recently between Esmie and his teammates, especially Olympic gold medalist Donovan Bailey.

"The family's not together any more," Esmie complained in the interview with the Star.

"There's all kinds of forces within the team. I don't feel the familyness that there was when we started out."

"Until it's there, I'm going to step back and do my individual thing."

Esmie said he would still run in the Canadian relay team in the upcoming World University Games, which will not feature Bailey or the other members of Canada's relay team — Bruny Surin and Glenroy Gilbert.

But he said he won't compete on the relay team at next year's Commonwealth Games.

## SPORTS IN BRIEF

### Laudrup to miss World Cup match

COPENHAGEN (AFP) — Danish international striker Brian Laudrup of Glasgow Rangers will miss the World Cup qualifying match against Bosnia in Sarajevo on August 20, citing illness. The Danish Football Association said Laudrup, who was named in the original Danish squad, advised them of his unavailability on Monday evening, saying he was suffering from chicken pox and a fever.

### Thomas out of Zurich meeting

LONDON (AFP) — British 400 metres record-holder Iwan Thomas has withdrawn from Wednesday night's IAAF Grand Prix athletics meeting in Zurich because of a persistent leg injury. Thomas, who was to have run against American world champion Michael Johnson in Zurich, finished sixth behind the American last week in Athens.

## Resignations hit preparations for Asian Games in Bangkok

BANGKOK (AFP) — Resignations and bickering between the organisers of next year's Asian Games here are dogging preparations for Asia's largest sporting event, the Thai press reported Tuesday.

Sukhachiv Rangsitpol, a deputy prime minister who heads the organising committee, has accepted the resignation of his marketing director, Santiparb Tejavaniya, newspapers said.

Now another member of the government-run Bangkok Asian Games Organising Committee (BAGOC) has submitted his resignation, calling for Sukhachiv to be replaced as committee chairman, the Bangkok Post reported.

Santiparb resigned his seven committee posts on July 31 in protest at legal wrangling by the Thai government over a \$10 million sponsorship agreement with Taiwanese computer firm ACER

Inc. for the event.

The Olympic Council of Asia then stepped in to try to convince him to stay, saying he was a key player in preparations for the event, which will be the 13th time the Games have been staged.

Charuek Artrajkaran, a BAGOC member and secretary general of the Olympic Committee of Thailand, put in his resignation Saturday, the post said. He tried to resign once before, after being sacked as BAGOC's secretary general, but was encouraged to stay on.

Other committee members are threatening to follow suit, the Post added.

Charuek said he was angered by BAGOC's acceptance of Santiparb's resignation and the immediate naming of replacements for his positions.

"It would have been better if the deputy prime minister had consult-

ed me before naming anyone, but it seems he has little faith in me," he told the nation newspaper.

"In such circumstances there is no need for me to continue."

Preparations for the event have already been dogged by fears that venues and a new transportation system in the traffic-choked Thai capital will not be ready on time.

At one site for the Games, to the north of Bangkok, two empty fields now stand where a key stadium is due to be built. Work on a flyover leading to the site and nearby accommodation blocks for the athletes has been started but is far from complete.

The only indication of the coming event is a sign to the side of the fields, which reads "13th Asian Games."

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CINEMA TEL:634144  
PHILADELPHIA "2"

Jim Carrey... in  
LIAR LIAR

Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

CINEMA TEL:699238  
PLAZA

Harrison Ford  
& Brad Pitt... in  
DEVIL'S OWN

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THE ENGLISH PATIENT  
Shows: 8:30, 10:45

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Andre Agassi

## Agassi ends 3-month win drought

INDIANAPOLIS (AFP) — Former World No. 1 Andre Agassi snapped a losing streak of more than three months, beating Italian Davide Sanguinetti 6-2, 4-6, 6-4 here Monday at the ATP RCA championships.

The 14th seed, now down to a world ranking of 74, ended a horror show of seven consecutive first-match losses this year on the ATP Tour with his win over the World No. 93, playing his first match of the year on hardcourt.

"You've got to start somewhere," Agassi said. "It's nice not to have another setback. How I deal with the next match is the next matter. I don't want to make too much of it."

Against Sanguinetti, Agassi was broken in the first set for 1-2, but lifted his game to break straight back against the 24-year-old Italian at the one million-

dollar event.

"Agassi can play good tennis anytime," he said. "(But) I'm a little disappointed that I lost."

The American dropped a second set containing five breaks and recovered from 0-3 down in the third to win in one hour, 55 minutes.

Agassi now stands 6-9 in a 1997 season that has been interrupted by wrist injury problems which kept him out of the French Open and Wimbledon.

Agassi's victory completed a perfect day for the four seeds on court.

Swedes Jonas Bjorkman and Magnus Larsson also advanced, as did South African Wayne Ferreira, who managed a 6-4, 6-3 victory over Australian qualifier Michael Tebbutt.

Ninth seed Bjorkman dispatched Australian Luke Smith, who played college tennis in the U.S., but lost by a score of 6-2, 7-6 (7/4).

Larsson, the No. 16, won 51 points to just 34 for Canadian opponent Daniel Nestor in a 6-4, 6-1 rout.

Ferreira, seeded 10th, has been troubled by a right ankle injury for weeks.

In the absence of the injured Boris Becker, German hopes were reduced to zero as Tommy Haas, Bernd Karbacher and Alex Radulescu all went out in the first round.

Haas was beaten by American Mark Merklein 3-6, 6-1, 6-3. Steve Campbell of the U.S. beat Karbacher 6-4, 4-6, 6-2; south African Grant Stafford accounted for Radulescu 6-4, 7-5.

Czech Martin Damm eliminated Frenchman Jerome Golmard, 6-1, 6-1, but Lionel Roux of France took a revenge victory for his nation over Razvan Sabau of Romania, 6-1, 6-2.

## Pagliuca gives Brazil a reminder

MILAN (AFP) — Inter Milan goalkeeper Gianluca Pagliuca sent Brazil a friendly reminder on Tuesday — "Ronaldo may be important, but remember who pays his wages."

Ronaldo, currently in Asia with the Brazilian national squad, will be wanted by both teams next season — as Inter try to win the Italian League and Brazil prepare for the World Cup finals.

Pagliuca said: "I'd rather he travelled as little as possible. I realise that, for Brazil, Ronaldo is just too important."

"But it's only fair that Inter have him for the big matches, because those are the ones that decide the championship."

"And then you have to remember that it's President Massimo Moratti who pays his wages."

"As for us, his teammates, we'll accept things because we know that he's a sensible lad and he knows what he's got to do."

Ronaldo stands to miss up to seven of Inter's 34 League matches next season on international duty — including the derby against AC Milan in November and a home game against champions Juventus in December.

Pagliuca also warned Ronaldo that life in the Serie A would be tougher than the Spanish League

with Barcelona.

"I know he's got skills that are way beyond those of all the other strikers in Italy," he said, "but it's going to be very difficult for him to continue to score goals as he has done up till now."

"Italian defenders are the best in the world and so are the goalkeepers," added Pagliuca, who was beaten once by the 20-year-old during the Tournoi de France.

The Brazilian ace, however, is continuing to repay

Inter after his world record \$27 million move from Barcelona, with the Italian club selling nearly 35,000 of Ronaldo's team shirts — worth nearly four billion lira (\$2.2 million) — in just 10 days.

Inter are also enjoying record sales of season tickets thanks to Ronaldo's arrival — with 40,000 sold already, worth 20 billion lira (\$11 million), and a final target of 50,000 by the time the season starts on August 31.

# World Athletics Championships leave question mark over Athens bid

ATHENS (AFP) — Greeks hoped that hosting the World Athletics Championships in Athens would show the world that the city which gave birth to the Olympic movement is ready to hold the 2004 Olympic Games.

Instead, squabbles throughout the championships — which ended on Sunday — have resulted in recriminations and a large question mark about Athens' candidacy.

International Amateur Athletic Federation chief Primo Nebiolo said on Monday that the championships would have been an organisational "tragedy" but for the intervention of IAAF officials.

Nebiolo criticised the Greek organisers for failing to promote the event after poor crowds marred the opening days, and told the Greek television channel Mega: "The organising team wasn't up to much, we found it mediocre."

The Greek press was Tuesday in a ferment over Nebiolo's criticism.

"Nebiolo frenzy against Greece" ran the headline in the pro-government newspaper Ta Nea, while the daily Eleftherotipia accused Nebiolo of starting "a new war".

Ethnos, a centre-right daily, was even more personal, calling Nebiolo "the mafioso of athletics" and saying he had thrown off his mask.

Nebiolo's criticism of Athens' Olympic bid is not surprising. He is one of the prime movers behind a rival bid; that of his home city of Rome.

Athens and Rome are considered the front runners in a race against Stockholm, Cape Town and Buenos Aires for the right to host the 2004 Games. The International Olympic Committee will make its decision in Lausanne on September 5.

Nebiolo was anxious for the World Championships to be a success in order to boost the image of the IAAF, but is now claiming any success was due to his officials, rather than those of the Athens organisers.

The championships would have been a "tragedy" if the IAAF hadn't stepped in to remedy the situation, he said, adding that the Olympic Games "can't resolve Greece's problems."

He cited economic and political problems such as relations with Macedonia and Cyprus and the European Union Maastricht criteria, which

Greece is trying to meet.

Evangelos Savramis, the head of the World Championships organising committee, joined in the mud-slinging, saying: "The only thing Mr. Nebiolo did was to continually create problems."

Savramis firmly put the blame for poor crowds on the first few days in Athens on the IAAF, saying that Nebiolo refused to allow local organisers to put the event back a month despite it falling in the middle of the traditional Greek holiday period.

Andreas Fouras, the Greek secretary of state for sports, weighed in with criticism of Nebiolo, saying: "I won't disguise that I am very much ill at ease with his attitude."

Nebiolo realises the furor he has created, saying: "The situation of the bidding cities is becoming a fire."

Nebiolo's criticisms may, or may not, hold great sway over IOC voters the next four weeks. It remains to be seen whether the row over the athletics championships, which many neutral observers felt were well run, has fatally damaged Athens' bid.

## Schumacher takes it easy at Monza

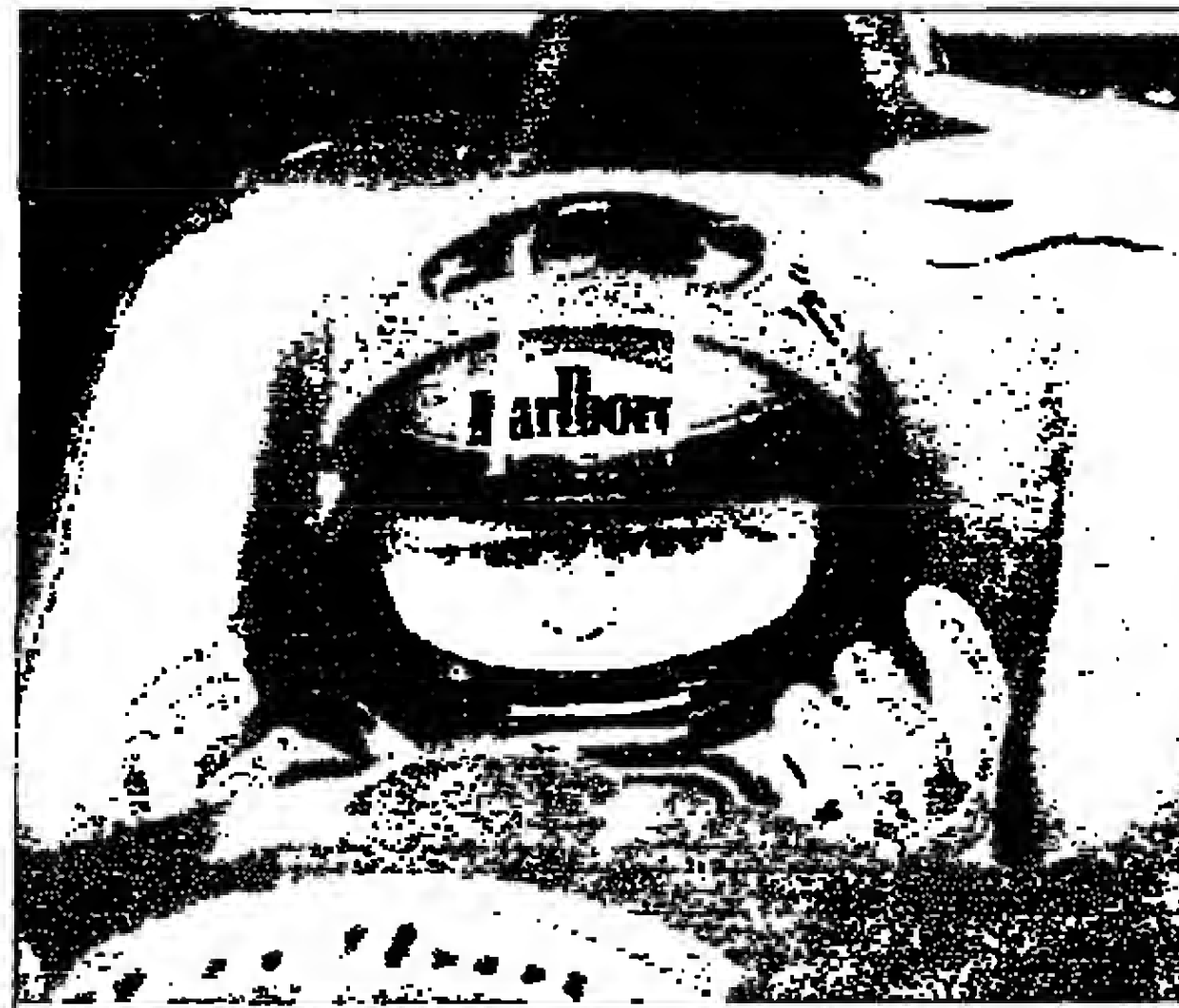
MONZA, Italy (AFP) — Michael Schumacher was putting his Ferrari through its paces here on Tuesday as the Italian team tried to recover from their Hungarian Grand Prix defeat.

Schumacher was trying out the new 046/2 engine which Ferrari are now pinning their hopes on after Jacques Villeneuve slashed his lead in the Driver's Championship to three points on Sunday.

The former two-time world champion limited his outing to 12 laps in the opening session here as Ferrari engineers worked on the set-up of the car — which was due to simulate a Grand Prix later in the day.

The 046/2 engine had powered Schumacher to victory in its first outing at the French Grand Prix, but was then temporarily shelved after fears over reliability.

Schumacher's best time



Michael Schumacher

in Tuesday's first session was a modest 1min 27.562sec, while Williams rival Heinz-Harald Frentzen, who is also here for two days of testing, managed 1:26.060 during his 41 laps.

Jean-Christophe Bouill-

lon, the Williams test driver, clocked 1:26.732 (14 laps) and Jan Magnussen 1:26.790 (36) in a Stewart-Ford.

The Monza Circuit will host the Italian Grand Prix on September 7.

## Bayer Leverkusen have tough task

BONN (AFP) — Bayer Leverkusen have been handed the toughest assignment in the opening round of the German Cup.

Leverkusen, last season's runners-up in the Bundesliga, must travel to the Baltic coast to play Hansa Rostock, the only first-round match-up which features first division clubs against each other.

Leverkusen would be strong favourites to beat Rostock, a team which barely averted relegation last season, if it weren't for the strains of their European Champions' League qualification match on Wednesday night which will be played Wednesday evening against Dynamo Tblisi.

Borussia Dortmund coach Nevio Scala will have six fewer players to choose from for Borussia's match on Thursday against the amateurs from the seaside resort of Warnemuende, just down the road from Rostock. Six first-team squad members are injured.

The only other first divi-

sion side not to have an amateur club as their first-round opposition are Schalke, who will meet FSV Zwickau from the second division on Thursday evening.

Zwickau, along with the other east German clubs Chemnitz, Leipzig and Carl Zeiss Jena, have been ordered to play their matches Thursday to separate them from the 10th anniversary of Nazi leader Rudolf Hess's death — which falls on Sunday.

The occasion often provokes violent clashes between extreme left and right wing radicals and German police fear football matches could be a rallying point.

Libero Lothar Mathaus will miss Bayern Munich's match against the small Bavarian amateur club DJK Waldberg on Friday after undergoing a minor operation to remove a painful lump from the back of his head.

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that North chose to reopen the bid-

ding. That gave East the chance to

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which could be defeated only with

a perfect defense. Even when South

bid four spades, an action that not

too many players from the other 4

states would have contemplated.

East felt sure that a plus score was

in the offing.

Declarer played low from dummy

and ruffed the opening heart lead in

hand. A spade to the queen and

king lost to the ace, and East con-

tinued with a heart, declarer ruff-

ing again. South led the last trump,

overtaking with the nine. West won

the jack and persevered with

hearts, forcing out dummy's ace.

Two more rounds of trumps

extracted East's lungs, and declarer

made the technically correct play of

the nine of clubs from the table,

covered by the queen and won in

the closed hand with the king. Now

declarer applied the Rule of

Restricted Choice, leading a club

and finessing the ten successfully.

The ace of clubs dropped the jack,

and declarer was able to overtake

the five of clubs in dummy to cash

the fifth club. In all, declarer scored

two trump tricks, two ruffs, the ace

of hearts and five clubs.

The Rule of Restricted Choice

states that, when a defender holds

two equals, such as the queen and

jack, either can be played at ran-

dom when declarer cashes a high

card. Therefore, when one drops

under a high honor, the odds are 2-

to-1 the defender does not hold the

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## Bashir meets Mandela to discuss Sudanese civil war

PRETORIA (AFP) — Sudanese President Omar Al Bashir began talks here Tuesday with President Nelson Mandela to discuss the civil war in his country, officials said.

The two leaders went into talks, to be followed by a working lunch, attended by a special envoy of Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammad, Tan Sri Ahmad Kamil Jaafar.

South African diplomats said Monday that Malaysia had recently launched a peace initiative for Sudan, where primarily Christian and Animist rebels in the south have been battling domination by the Arabised, Muslim north since 1983.

The conflict, which has cost an estimated one million lives, is already the subject of a regional peace initiative backed by Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia and Eritrea under the aegis of the Intergovernmental Authority for Development (IGAD).

Malaysian envoys have met with Khartoum government officials as well as rebel leader John Garang, head of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA).

Diplomats said that a Sudanese rebel delegation early this month went to Malaysia after a stop in South Africa where they had contacts with government officials.

Sudanese Foreign Minister Ali Osman Mohammad Taha said Sunday that Gen. Bashir would ask Mr. Mandela to act as mediator in the conflict.

But Mr. Mandela's spokesman Parks Mankahlana said Monday: "It would be premature to suggest that he would mediate. He still wants to appraise himself of the situation."

The president, he added, would take his cue from the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) and the United Nations if he was to have a role in the peace moves.

Foreign ministry spokesman Pieter Swanepoel said after a meeting between Mr. Taha and his South African counterpart Alfred Nzo early Tuesday that the presidents' talks would also address "bilateral relations to see what possible assistance South Africa can offer to

Sudan."

Gen. Bashir, who arrived in South Africa Monday for a two-day visit, is accompanied by his foreign and federal affairs ministers, Ali Osman Mohammad Taha and Ali Mohammad Elbag.

The foreign ministry said in a statement Monday that South African authorities "fully support and encourage all parties to the conflict in Sudan to participate in the IGAD peace initiative."

IGAD, which also includes Somalia, Sudan and Djibouti, succeeded at a summit last month in Nairobi in persuading Gen. Bashir to accept a declaration of principles for further peace negotiations.

The Sudanese strongman recently signed a peace accord with six rebel factions, but the SPLA stayed resolutely outside the deal.

In February, Mandela revealed that he had met with SPLA leader Garang in December and announced an imminent meeting with Gen. Bashir.

But the crisis in the former Zaire and trips to Asia forced the South African president to postpone the meeting, diplomats said.



**CHALLENGING THE INSECT:** A boy plays at a tug-of-war with a robot beetle at the Greatest Insect Exposition in Osaka Tuesday. A month-long exposition started July 27 to celebrate the 90th anniversary of Fabre completing his famous 'Souvenirs entomologiques' (AFP photo)

## Hundreds of Iraqi Kurd families return from Iran

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Around 600 Iraqi Kurd families who took refuge in Iran last year have returned home to receive food and medical aid under a U.N. programme, a U.N. official said here Tuesday.

Eric Falt, spokesman for the U.N. coordinator of humanitarian affairs in Iraq, said 400 families have returned over the past few weeks to Erbil and another 200 to Sulaymaniyah, both provinces in northern Iraq.

U.N. agencies have registered the families for them to qualify for food and medical supplies, under the oil-for-food accord between Iraq and the U.N., he said.

Iraq resumed limited oil exports in December, in line with the accord, to finance imports of food and medicine for its sanctions-hit population of more than 20 million.

U.N. sanctions were slapped on Iraq for its August 1990 of Kuwait. The U.N. is in charge of distribution of the humanitarian supplies in the north, which has been under the control of Kurdish groups since the aftermath of the

1991 Gulf war to evict Iraq from Kuwait.

U.N. agencies distribute between 8,000 and 10,000 tonnes of food a week to more than three million people in Iraqi Kurdistan. An estimated 65,000 Kurds fled across the border to Iran in 1996 to escape fighting between rival Kurdish groups. But most of them have since returned to northern Iraq.

Iranian authorities said at the end of last year that 5,000 Iraqi Kurd refugees at most were left on its territory.

## Turkey rules out buying arms from South Africa

ANKARA (AFP) — Turkey Tuesday ruled out buying defence equipment from South Africa following press reports Pretoria had blocked the sale of 12 attack helicopters to the Turkish army.

"We have not been buying anything and will not buy any defence equipment from South Africa as long as (South African President) Nelson Mandela does not apologise for refusing to accept the Turkish peace award," a top defence official told Anadolu News Agency (ANA).

"In this connection we have never asked the South African government to sell helicopters to us," added Yalcin Burak, head of Turkey's government agency coordinating defence procurement matters, the undersecretariat for defence industries.

In 1993, the Ankara government awarded the country's annual peace award to Mr. Mandela, but he rejected the offer, accusing Turkey of

widespread human rights violations and mishandling the Kurdish question.

The Johannesburg-based Sunday Independent newspaper at the weekend reported Pretoria had blocked the proposed sale by a South African arms maker of Rooivalk attack helicopters to Turkey on human rights and political grounds.

Mr. Burak said Turkey had never agreed to any purchase of helicopters from the South African company Denel, adding: "On the contrary, we have rejected several efforts by Denel to take part in a Turkish helicopter programme." Turkey plans to manufacture locally up to 145 attack helicopters worth nearly \$3 billion under an agreement with a foreign partner yet to be selected.

Mr. Burak's office said the companies bidding for the Turkish deal included the U.S. Sikorsky Aircraft, McDonnell Douglas and Bell Helicopter Textron, the

French-German Eurocopter, the Italian Agusta and the Russian manufacturer Rosvertol.

South Africa imposed a ban on arms exports to Ankara in April 1995 in the wake of a massive incursion by the Turkish army into neighbouring northern Iraq to hunt down separatist Turkish Kurds who had bases in the area.

Turkey in turn placed South Africa on its "red list" of countries which bans all potential arms deals.

Pretoria announced in April that it had lifted the embargo on Turkey.

Commenting on the latest controversy, a South African diplomat in Ankara told Agence France Presse that his country was not enforcing an arms embargo on Turkey.

"Rejecting ... permission to market a specific defence item in one country doesn't mean that this will apply to other items for that country," the diplomat said.

## Turkish parliamentary committee approves anti-Islamist education bill

ANKARA (AFP) — A Turkish parliamentary committee Tuesday approved a controversial education reform bill under which hundreds of state-run schools teaching Islam would be closed.

The bill, which has angered the Islamist opposition and provoked demonstrations throughout the country, was prepared by the secular coalition government headed by Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz.

It still has to be approved by parliament's general assembly, in a vote expected before the end of this week.

Parliament's planning and budget committee passed the bill with the votes of three centrist parties in Mr. Yilmaz's government and a left-wing party despite strong opposition by the Islamist-led opposi-

tion, parliament officials said.

Political analysts said the government has the backing of a sufficient number of deputies in the final parliamentary vote, although some far-right members in Mr. Yilmaz's own conservative Motherland Party are opposed to the bill.

The government bill has also caused social unrest. Former Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan, whose pro-Islamist Welfare Party is spearheading efforts to block the move, last week qualified the bill as "a product of a fascist secular understanding challenging the people's will."

Since late July, Islamists have been holding rallies throughout the country to protest the closure of the secondary parts of state-run religious schools training imams, or local Islamic leaders.

Hundreds of protesters have been detained in the demonstrations.

The education bill is staunchly supported by Turkey's powerful pro-secular military, under whose pressure Mr. Erbakan's Islamist-led government stepped down in late June and was replaced by Mr. Yilmaz's cabinet.

Since winning a parliamentary confidence vote a month ago, Mr. Yilmaz has repeatedly vowed that his government would fight rising Islamism in Turkey.

A top Mr. Yilmaz aide Tuesday accused Mr. Erbakan's welfare of "resorting to terrorist methods," referring to the street protests and moves by Islamist deputies to rough up ruling coalition parliamentarians during last week's committee sessions.

The government is planning new taxes to raise \$4.0

billion dollars over the next three years to support the reforms which also aim to increase compulsory primary education from the current five years to eight.

The package, which was also approved by the same parliamentary committee, calls for new taxes on alcohol, tobacco, legal betting and lottery, mobile telephones, car sales and local flights.

The government needs nearly \$6.5 billion to build new schools, train teachers and meet related expenses to implement the reform. Finance Minister Zekeriya Temizel told the state-owned television station, TRT.

The government plans to raise \$4.0 billion through the new taxes, he said.

The tax package should also be approved by parliament's general assembly before taking effect.

## Dubai expels 40 AIDS victims on average every month

DUBAI (AFP) — The wealthy Gulf emirate of Dubai expels dozens of foreigners with AIDS each month and puts them on a blacklist to make sure they cannot return, a senior police official said Tuesday.

Captain Hassan Abdullah Hassan of the immigration department said an average of around 40 people a month are tested positive for the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), the precursor of the acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS). They are expelled immediately.

Blood tests for AIDS are carried out when a new residence visa is being processed or for renewal of visas.

In June, the southern Gulf trade hub deported 36 AIDS sufferers and 179 other expatriates "for involvement in immoral activities and dealing in alcohol," Mr. Hassan said, quoted in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) newspapers.

Dubai, a liberal emirate, is one of the seven-member UAE federation. The same law on AIDS is applied in the rest of the UAE, where an estimated two-thirds of the population of 2.4 million are foreigners.

Other Gulf Arab states, including Saudi Arabia, also expel foreigners who have AIDS.

## Tehran Vampire lashed before hanging today

TEHRAN (AP) — An Iranian taxi driver nicknamed the "Tehran Vampire" for stalking, raping and murdering nine female passengers was lashed again Tuesday before he is hanged, the state-run radio said.

A court last week sentenced Ali Reza Khoshruy Kuran Kordiyeh to 214 lashes, life imprisonment and death ten times after he was convicted of carrying on a three-month kidnapping, rape and murder spree earlier this year.

Kordiyeh's whipping began Monday and the 214 lashes must be completed before his scheduled public hanging Wednesday, Judge Hamid Reza Goudarzi was quoted as saying by state-run radio.

It did not say if the lashings have been completed. The punishment is administered with a thick leather whip made of braided thongs.

The court did not say where the execution will take place, but newspaper reported that Kordiyeh will be hanged from a mobile crane in a public square in

western Tehran where he picked up most of his victims.

The Iran News daily reported that relatives of the victims had demanded that Kordiyeh, 28, be stoned to death for his crimes.

Kordiyeh was accused of killing 11 women. But the court found he had murdered nine women and girls between the age of 10 and 47. Two of the victims were a mother and daughter.

The taxi murders became the talk of Tehran, a city where such grisly crimes are rare.

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## Iran clamps restrictions on showing films abroad

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iran's culture ministry has barred filmmakers from letting their films be screened abroad without permission after several Iranian movies were shown at the Jerusalem film festival, the press reported Tuesday.

Four of Iranian cinema pioneer Mohsen Makhmalbaf's international award-winning films were shown last month in Jerusalem.

"All Iranian filmmakers wanting to conclude contracts to show abroad must get prior authorisation from the ministry," according to a government statement published in Tuesday's newspaper.

The culture ministry said last month that the Israeli showing was a "pernicious act aimed at attacking the image of the Islamic Republic," the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported.

The ministry also said that permission had not been granted to show the films in Jerusalem.

The Farabi Foundation, a state body which runs the cinema industry in Iran, said the decision to show the films in Israel was a "manipulation of art which is incompatible with the international ethics of culture."

Mr. Makhmalbaf has said he "didn't see any obstacle to his films being viewed in Israel."

"I'm proud that people can see my films," he said, adding that the screening constitutes "a cultural dialogue" between nations.

The showing of the films — "Gabbeh," "A Moment of Innocence," "Time of Love" and "Salaam Cinema" — was the first time Iranian cinema has been represented at the Jerusalem festival.

The movies were brought to Jerusalem by the French film distribution company MK2.

## No truth to ancient pharaonic archives — antiquities chief

CAIRO (AFP) — The head of Egypt's Supreme Council for Antiquities (SCA) has denied that legendary granite and gold archives lie near the Giza pyramids, the government daily Al-Ahram reported Tuesday.

"Everything being said from time to time about the presence of archives beneath the pyramids is fantasy ... and is aimed at undermining Egyptian civilisation," Ali Hassan told Al-Ahram.

He also denied that a foreign archaeological team was given permission to work on the north face of the Cheops

Pyramids, the biggest of the famous Giza trio.

British publisher Nigel Appleby and British telecom worker Adam Child told London's Sunday Times that they know where ancient Egyptian treasure is located and that they got permission from the Egyptian authorities to probe Cheops.

Mr. Appleby claims to have broken a secret code in ancient Egyptian texts, which gives the location of the archive in relation to the stars.

He says the archive is mentioned in the Egyptian book of the dead and in the Bible.

"A Japanese team has spent the past 20 years on the Giza Plateau trying to find it and an American team is there now looking under the paws of the sphinx. But they are looking in the wrong direction," said Mr. Appleby.

But Mr. Hassan said the Briton's claim was false.

"There is no tunnel under the sphinx leading to the pyramids. A team from the United States carried out some geophysical work in the region in the 1970s and found that Abu Al Hol (the sphinx) was cut in the rock," he said.

## Clinton would cast Tom Hanks as himself

NEW YORK (R) — President Bill Clinton says he would cast contemporary superstar Tom Hanks to portray him if a movie were being made about his life. "I mean, we don't look alike, and we're not the same size and shape or anything, but I know him and I respect him as a person and as an actor," Clinton said. "I would want somebody with a lot of range and a lot of human feeling."

## Kennedy speaks out on family

NEW YORK (R) — John F. Kennedy Jr. tackles the controversies surrounding his cousins Joseph and Michael Kennedy in the new issue of his monthly political magazine George, saying they became "poster boys for bad behaviour."

Writing about temptation in the editor's letter in the September issue of George, Kennedy said the two men had "chased an idealised alternative to their life" and "perhaps ... should have known better." His words were unusual in that Kennedy family members rarely speak out publicly about one another, especially in scandals and other controversies.

## Shanghainese spend heavily on pets

SHANGHAI (R) — The people of Shanghai, China's richest city, are spending \$120 million a year on pets that include wolves and insects, and are developing a taste for the virtual kind, business news said Tuesday. The market for live pets was now 10 times the size it was a decade ago, the newspaper said. The craze for virtual pets, or Tamagotchis, that has swept Asia had also bitten Shanghai's pet lovers, it said, without giving further details.

## Actor Christian Slater arrested on assault charges

LOS ANGELES (R) — Actor Christian Slater, who co-starred in "Interview With the Vampire," was charged with suspicion of assault with a deadly weapon following an argument with his girlfriend and a scuffle with police, a police spokesman said.

Detective Ron Phillips told a news conference that officers were called to a luxury condominium in the westwood neighbourhood and took Slater, 27, into custody. The actor, who does not live in the building but was attending a party there, was charged with three counts of assault with a deadly weapon and one count of battery.

Morris, Mizrahi make sensational Royal Opera debut

EDINBURGH (R) — U.S. choreographer Mark Morris, the "Enfant Terrible" of dance, and American fashion wonder boy Isaac Mizrahi combined to provide the Royal Opera Covent Garden with a sensational comeback at the Edinburgh International Festival.

Morris, 40, brought his talent for fun and extravagance to a little-known 18th century French opera-ballet and turned it into a riot of colour that is likely to prove the hit of the three-week festival. With Mizrahi, 35, designing the costumes for Jean-Philippe Rameau's "Plateau," the pair transformed the stage into a giant glass terrarium populated by dancing frogs, exotic birds, copulating terrapins and slithering snakes.

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volleyball team travel

AFP — An Iraqi volleyball team travel

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